



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,789

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(IR50p) 45p



**Smart girls settle for life's Dobbins** FEATURES PAGE 8



**So what's the big idea, Mr Jackson?** MEDIA PAGE 13



**So what's the big idea, Mr Jackson?** MEDIA PAGE 13

## Fears over sport's new 'legal steroid'

**THE BIGGEST EVER** survey of British sportsmen and women has revealed widespread use of a dietary supplement, creatine, which has similar performance-enhancing effects to steroids but which many experts believe could cause long-term harm.

More than 300 elite competitors responded to a questionnaire drawn up by *The Independent* about drug use in British sport. Nearly 57 per cent said they had taken creatine, which is marketed as a legal alternative to anabolic steroids. Among rugby league players and weightlifters, the figure was 100 per cent.

Members of the England football team, Arsenal's Double winners, and athletes such as Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell are among those who claim to have benefited from this synthetic form of a naturally-occurring muscle builder. But concerns have been voiced over possible side-effects, and this week the International Olympic Committee's medical commission will consider claims that it is unsafe.

A report sent to the IOC by Italian scientists seeks a ban on creatine, claiming it may be harmful. A recent inquiry by the Italian FA concluded that there should be a curb on the use of the substance.

The British Olympic Association refuses to endorse the product because of fears over its long-term effects. Some doctors have suggested it causes kidney damage, while others have linked it with short-term problems such as muscle cramping and dehydration.

The Irish Sports Minister, Dr Jim McDaid, said that creatine "should be regarded with profound caution. During my time as a hospital doctor we used to measure the level of creatine in the blood as an indicator of renal failure." Dr McDaid's comments follow concern over the number of Irish rugby players experimenting with creatine.

Andy Robinson, coach to England's most successful rugby union side, Bath, has voiced his own opposition to sporting use of a substance which was originally developed to help the elderly and infirm.

"I'm very seriously concerned that we don't know enough about the long-term effects of creatine and for that very good reason I advise our players not to touch it," he said.

Creatine is big business on both sides of the Atlantic. Maximus, one of the firms marketing creatine products in Britain, has seen its turnover double in each of the last five years. It is estimated that total sales in this country of performance enhancing substances are around £20m a year. In the US, sales of creatine last year totalled about \$100m (\$60m), a figure that is predicted to rise by 20-25 per cent annually.

Dr Paul Greenhaff of Nottingham University, a leading researcher into creatine use, said his team had never been asked to do a detailed study of long-term effects. "It needs to be addressed," he said.

The survey also highlights anxiety about the effectiveness of the doping control programme. Only one in four believed their sport was "clean".

## New Deal loophole lets in criminals

**THE GOVERNMENT** is reviewing the way it vets applicants for the New Deal work programme after it emerged that paedophiles were being offered work with children.

A Home Office-led working party will look at ways of closing the loophole before irreparable damage is done to the Government's flagship scheme for combating youth unemployment.

Probation officers have discovered that at least two convicted sex offenders were allocated placements which involved them working directly with children.

In one case, a 20-year-old man from the Home Counties was offered a maintenance post in a nursery, despite having previous convictions for the sexual abuse of young children. He was only prevented from taking up the position when police and probation staff discovered by chance what had happened and blocked the move.

In South Wales, New Deal staff allowed a 22-year-old sex offender to apply for a job with children, even after he told them he had a conviction for a schedule one offence. He later joked to his probation officer that the staff did not seem to understand the meaning of the term, which refers to sex offences under the 1991 Criminal Justice Act.

The man, who is listed on the national paedophile register, recently served an 18-month sentence after indecently assaulting a 14-year-old girl outside a cafe and trying to drag her onto wasteland.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers (Napo), said he was convinced that other sex offenders had already been given placements with children because of the lack of security checks in the scheme.

Probation staff have been told that data-protection legislation prevents New Deal staff being given details of previous convictions. The onus is on employers to ask but many, especially voluntary organisations, assume that the government agency has carried out the necessary checks.

Mr Fletcher said: "There is a serious flaw in the New Deal arrangements which could lead to a tragedy. We must not shut down all employment opportunities for offenders but there needs to be a change in the law so that information is made available if sex offenders are being put in touch with children."

The New Deal was introduced earlier this year to help young people aged between 18 and 24 who have been unemployed for six months. It has already placed 70,000 people in paid or voluntary employment or in full-time education.

A spokesman for the Employment Service, the government agency which runs the scheme, said last night: "We are working with the Home Office and the Probation Service to explore any practical steps we can take to ensure that the Employment Service does not submit unsuitable people to jobs that involve working with children."

He said that investigations would begin into the two cases identified by Napo. "We are very concerned about the cases raised... which we will investigate thoroughly and on which we will take urgent action," he said.

The Department for Education and Employment has relayed its concerns over the New Deal loophole to the Home Office-led working party, which is due to report to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, by the end of the month. The working party will recommend a series of initiatives to prevent unsuitable people working with children, including greater sharing of information by government agencies and making it a criminal offence for sex offenders to seek work with children.

There are rigorous checks surrounding posts in children's homes and other work with children in the public sector. Applicants are required to declare all personal details, including previous convictions, on a form which is sent to the police for verification.

However, there are serious concerns that there are a multitude of other organisations which work with children and young people on a voluntary basis where there are no legal requirements for checks on the previous convictions of personnel.



Harry Fletcher: Flaw could lead to tragedy

## Aitken committed for trial at the Bailey



Jonathan Aitken arriving at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday where he was committed to stand trial on perjury charges Jeff Moore

**JONATHAN AITKEN** yesterday became the first former cabinet minister in modern times to be committed to stand trial at the Old Bailey on criminal charges.

Mr Aitken, the chief secretary to the Treasury under John Major and once seen as a future Tory leader, faces a jury trial on charges of perjury, conspiring to pervert the course of justice, and perverting the course of justice. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail on each count. Said Mohammed Ayas, a former business associate of Mr Aitken, was also committed to stand trial on the charge of conspiracy, as well as a charge of perverting the course of justice.

Mr Aitken's estranged wife, Lolita, is named in one of the charges as a party to conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. However, Mrs Aitken has been neither charged nor arrested and is thought to be living abroad.

Neither Mr Aitken nor Mr Ayas spoke during the 11 minute hearing at court 1 at Bow Street magistrates court yesterday morning. A preliminary hearing at the Old Bailey is provisionally scheduled for January 18 next year.

The charges against Mr Aitken and Mr Ayas, both 56, followed the collapse of Mr Aitken's libel trial against *The Guardian* and Granada television's *World in Action* programme over the issue of a hotel bill for the Ritz Hotel in Paris. It is alleged that between April 9 1998 and June 21 1997 Mr Aitken and Mr Ayas, along with Lolita Aitken, knowingly signed false witness statements for the High Court, stating that Lolita and the Aitkens' daughter, Victoria, had stayed in Paris at the flat of Mr Ayas's daughter.

The statement also claimed, allegedly falsely, that on September 19 Mrs Aitken was in Paris and had paid a sum of money in respect of a bill at the Paris Ritz run up by Mr Aitken.

Mr Aitken faces three further charges: two of attempting to pervert the course of justice and one of perjury, in which it is alleged that under oath he wilfully made a false statement that on September 19 1993 Lolita was in Paris and had paid money towards his hotel bill.

Whatever the outcome of the financial action, Mr Aitken, is said to be financially ruined. He faces a £2m legal bill over the High Court action, and a judge recently stopped him from transferring his £2m home to Lolita as part of a divorce settlement.

## Scientists want to 'nuke' their image

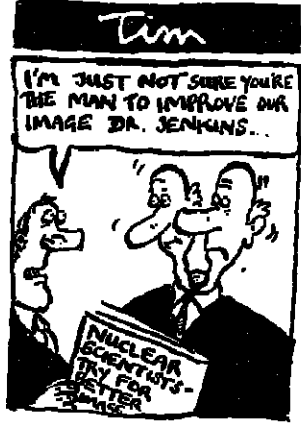
**FED UP** with being associated with environmental catastrophe and atomic holocausts, nuclear physicists are considering dropping the dreaded N-word from their name.

A debate is raging within one of science's least understood backwaters on how to improve the image of a community that feels unfairly tarnished by the public's fear of anything nuclear. A group of European nuclear physicists will discuss how to repackaging their image as part of a debate aimed at securing EU funding. One of the most radical suggestions is to find a label which does not have the doom-laden connotations of such disasters as Hiroshima and Chernobyl.

"One of the image problems identified was the word nuclear," said Peter Rogers, editor of the journal *Physics World*. "I asked... what is the link between nuclear-physics research and nuclear power and nuclear weapons. If the link is weak or non-existent, one way to solve the problem would be to change the name."

Scientists studying atomic nuclei are helping to understand the forces of creation rather than using them for destruction, said Jim Al-Khalili, a nuclear physicist at Surrey University, adding that many physicists would oppose a name change, because it would look as if they have something to hide.

But precedents have already been set: magnetic resonance imaging, which is used for scanning body organs, was changed from "nuclear magnetic resonance" as a way of reassuring patients, Dr Al-Khalili said.



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**TODAY'S TELEVISION**

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## IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

## 'Tony Blair is one of the century's great leaders, and Bald Billy is a prat'

MICK HUCKNALL, POP STAR AND POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID VIRONOVITCH, ANNE McILVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

FASHION: THE  
COUNTERFEIT COUNT  
OF JEWELLERY  
PLUS THEATRE &  
MIDWEEK MONEY  
& SECRETARIAL

## Romanians take six-day truck ride to prison

"WE CAME for a better life," wept the small gypsy woman in the rough wool skirt and green headscarf. "We did not even know where we were going, but we were promised the life would be good."

Droma Laureana, 39, left Tandrai in Romania on November 28 for the West. For the dream of a land of promise she squeezed into a truck bound for Britain with more than a hundred of her neighbours.

For six days the men, women and children - including nine infants - were crammed in the 40ft freight truck. Mostly they stood, as there was no room to lie down.

The journey cost all that they had. "We sold our homes to pay the man 500 German marks (£179) per family," said Mrs Laureana, who came with her husband and her children aged 14, 12 and 7. She wept again.

Yesterday, Mrs Laureana

BY MARY BRAD

and her neighbours were experiencing the good life they had been promised: huddled together in the disused wing of Joyce Green hospital in Dartford, Kent, after being taken into custody at the town's freight terminal on Thursday.

The wards are warm and dry but empty except for camp beds and a television showing the cartoon *Chipmunks*, surrounded by bewildered children.

"We came to escape the Romanian police," said Nihal Victoria, 20, cradling her baby. "They were coming to our homes and beating us up. They burned our school and church... They hate gypsies. We just want to live somewhere in peace."

Now they are separated from their husbands, who are being held separately for questioning at a detention centre. "We just want our husbands

back," said Mrs Victoria. "And please don't send us back."

It is difficult to tell what sort of welcome these people expected, but it is as well they do not know that the National Front marched through Dartford on Saturday in protest at rising immigration.

The hospital spokesman said it had been asked to help until temporary accommodation could be found while asylum applications were heard. Tory MP John Tugend said the immigrants should not be housed in a hospital but put in an internment camp.

Howard Skote, the Labour MP for Dartford, accused some sections of the press of whipping up anti-immigrant feeling. He said the group "were taken advantage of by traffickers in human misery". But he added that they were almost certain to be deported because they were unlikely to qualify for asylum.



Romanian asylum seekers at the Joyce Green hospital in Dartford. Andrew Buurman

## Letters monopoly to go in reforms

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

THE POST Office will be freed from day-to-day state control and transformed into a "world class" company, the Government promised yesterday.

Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that customers would get a better service following his decision to create a "Post Office plc" which remained in the public sector with much greater commercial freedom than at present.

The proposals include a removal of the Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters costing up to £1 to send. But, as *The Independent* revealed in October, Mr Mandelson ruled out an immediate privatisation of the organisation, even though the sale of 49 per cent of the Government's shareholding was favoured by the Treasury and could have raised £2bn.

Although he told the Commons that a shares sale would be kept under review, ministers have shelved the idea until after the next general election. Mr Mandelson said privatisation would have posed a threat to the survival of sub-post offices and created "massive uncertainty" until legislation was introduced in two or three years.

Ministers also had little stomach for what would have been a three-year guerrilla war with the Post Office unions, who are opposed to privatisation. Mr Mandelson is locked in negotiations with both sides of industry over legislation granting unions new rights in the workplace and did not want to be fighting them on two fronts.

He told MPs the Post Office would become a "new form of public sector enterprise operating at arm's-length from the Government".

A new independent regulator would protect consumer interests by maintaining the present universal delivery service at the same price. The regulator will also relax the Post Office's monopoly on letters costing up to £1, which is expected to be reduced to about 50p, allowing private-sector firms to enter the market.

In return, the Post Office will be allowed to compete in a competitive market by investing an extra £1bn over five years in new products and technology and to forge partnerships with other postal operators.

Although the Treasury will continue to cream off some of its profits, the payments will be reduced from an estimated £335m next year to £207m. In future, the Government will take about 40 per cent of its profits, instead of the 80 per cent in recent years.

Ministers hope the shake-up will improve the efficiency of the Post Office, which will be allowed to pay its workers more provided productivity improvements are made.

The Government will lift a moratorium on closing Crown post offices, usually based in town centres, and reopening them in retail outlets such as out-of-town supermarkets, which could net the Post Office millions of pounds.

## Police chief thief jailed for two years

A POLICE chief who duped his force out of more than £26,000 was yesterday jailed for two years.

Chief Superintendent Colin McDonald, 51, was also ordered to pay £26,642 compensation to West Midlands Police after Birmingham Crown Court heard how he tricked the force over three years.

Malcolm Morse, for the prosecution, said McDonald fiddled expenses claims and stole cash allowances for police operations between April 1994 and November last year.

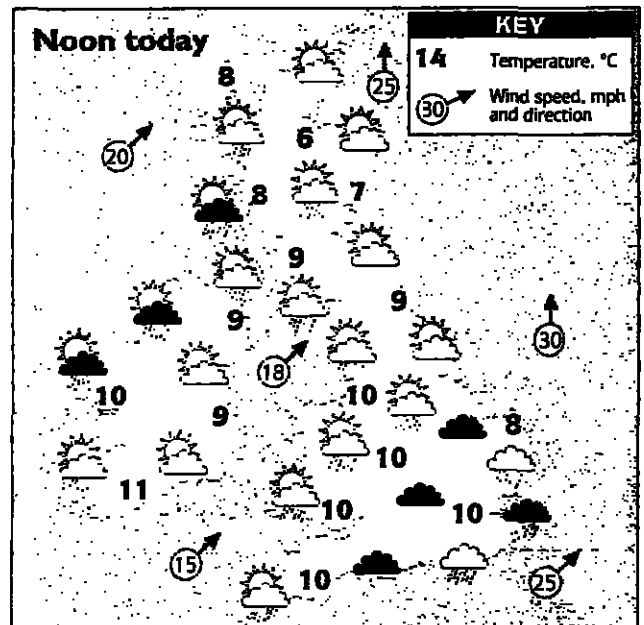
McDonald, who admitted six counts of theft and one of obtaining property by deception,

even claimed £800 for a conference on football hooliganism in Bilbao, Spain, which he did not attend.

McDonald, who had 29 years' service, regularly pocketed money after completing cash advance forms using other officers' names without their knowledge. He also claimed cash for use in operations such as crackdowns on car crime that he was not involved in.

Sentencing McDonald, who asked for 69 offences to be taken into consideration, Judge Alistair McCraith said he had committed a "gross breach of trust" made worse by his high rank.

## BRITAIN TODAY



## FORECAST

General situation England and Wales will start cloudy with rain in many places. The rain will soon clear from the north and west, leaving a bright afternoon with sunshine and a few showers. Southern England, the east Midlands and East Anglia will stay overcast well into the afternoon, but most of the rain will be confined to the extreme south-east by lunchtime. Meanwhile, Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a blustery day with sunny spells and showers. The whole of the UK will be much milder than recently.

Channel 5, London, Cent S & SE England, E Midlands, E Anglia: A mild but dull morning with outbreaks of rain. It should become drier this afternoon, but it will stay rather cloudy. A brisk south to south-easterly wind. Max temp 9-11°C (48-52°F).

SW England, S Wales, W Midlands, E England: Early rain will slowly clear to leave a few sunny spells and isolated showers. A blustery south-westerly breeze. Max temp 9-12°C (48-54°F).

N Wales, NW Cent N & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A mild but dull morning with outbreaks of rain. It should become drier this afternoon, but it will stay rather cloudy. A brisk south to south-easterly wind. Max temp 9-11°C (48-52°F).

N Ireland: A blustery day with sunny intervals and scattered heavy showers. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: A blustery day with sunny intervals and heavy showers. A strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 8-11°C (46-52°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, W Isles: An early damp and misty morning will clear to leave sunny spells and isolated showers. A brisk southerly wind, but much milder than recently. Max temp 6-9°C (43-48°F).

## OUTLOOK

Tomorrow will be mild with early drizzle in the south clearing to leave dry weather across much of the UK. However, more wind and rain will reach the far west by the evening. Changeable but mild weather will continue on Thursday and Friday.

## TRAVEL

London: A61 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green. Major works at Finchley Rd. Gyratory. Until 31st December. Cambridge Avenue A1 between Abchurch Lane and Hadden. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December.

Blackburn: M60 between junctions 10 (A62) & 3 (Wyebeck East). Three narrow lane both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

Bristol: A5 118-18. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001.

North: A72 Hardwick Roundabout, Kings Lynn (A10). Roadworks between the pylon

roundabout and the Hardwick Roundabout. Until 13th December 1998.

West Yorkshire: M1 Between J42 Lofthouse Interchange (M62) and J43 Stourton. Roadworks and a 50 mph speed limit. Until 31st December 1998.

Cumbria: M6 J67 Kendal. Roadworks, contraflow reduced to 2 lanes both ways with a 50 mph speed limit, 1 mile south of the junction. Until 16th January 1999.

AA Roadwatch: Call 0300 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

## LIGHTING UP

	3.59pm	to	8.33am
Belfast	3.54pm	to	8.05am
Birmingham	4.02pm	to	8.03am
Bristol	3.44pm	to	8.35am
Glasgow	3.52pm	to	7.54am
Manchester	3.50pm	to	8.12am
Newcastle	3.59pm	to	8.10am

## HIGH TIDES

	AM HT	PM HT
Avonmouth	10.13 12.6	10.41 12.0
Cork	8.38 4.5	9.03 4.3
Doverport	10.14 12.6	10.41 12.0
Dunfermline	1.45 6.5	2.06 6.3
Don	2.32 4.0	2.50 4.2
Edinburgh	8.25 4.1	8.55 4.7
Greenock	3.32 3.4	3.27 3.8
Hull	2.35 3.9	3.01 4.0
Holyhead	1.15 5.4	1.32 5.5
London	8.17 6.6	8.44 6.2
London (Abbey)	9.24 6.2	9.34 6.3
King's Lynn	5.43 5.4	6.05 5.3
Liverpool	2.02 8.0	2.21 8.0
Millport	8.17 6.6	8.44 6.2
Newport	8.11 6.6	8.39 6.2
Portsmouth	9.43 2.1	10.15 1.7
Portsmouth	1.12 4.8	1.21 4.5
Portsmouth	11.10 4.7	11.39 4.3
Scarborough	7.17 5.6	7.25 5.6
Wick	2.17 3.3	2.28 3.4

## AIR QUALITY

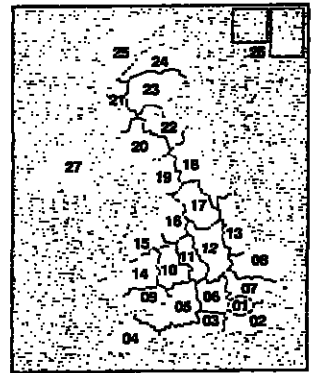
	NO <sub>2</sub>	Mod	SO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

## SUN &amp; MOON

Sun rises:	07:53
Sun sets:	15:52
Moon rises:	21:34
Moon sets:	11:36
Last quarter:	Dec 11th

## WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



## YESTERDAY

	Sea	Rain	Max
Abertillery	0.7	0.1	1.34
Anglesey	0.1	0.12	1.45
Armagh	0.2	0.1	1.30
Belfast	1.1	0.02	4.39
Birmingham	0.9	0.02	4.39
Bournemouth	3.6	0.01	7.45
Bristol	0.0	0.08	2.36
Cardiff	1.5	0.02	7.45
Carmarthen	2.0	0.0	6.43
Caswell	2.0	0.24	4.39
Cromer	6.0	0.02	1.34
Dundee	5.4	0.02	6.43
Edinburgh	0.7	0.05	7.45
Exeter	0.0	0.03	3.37
Gloucester	5.4	0.02	6.43
Harrogate	0.0	0.01	5.41
Hove	2.2	0.0	7.45
Isle of Man	1.2	0.0	6.43
Jarvis	2.1	0.01	9.48
Leeds	4.4	0.01	4.39
Lewisham	3.5	0.35	1.34
London	0.5	0.01	6.41
Lowestoft	1.0	0.42	2.36
Manchester	2.1	0.07	4.39
Margate	0.2	0.0	4.39
Merseyside	5.0	0.02	3.37
Newcastle	4.4	0.03	2.36
Newquay	2.9	0.07	4.39
Northwich	3.0	0.03	6.43
Oxford	3.5	0.01	7.45
Ross-on-Wye	0.0	0.04	3.37
Scarborough	1.1	0.07	4.39
Sheffield	0.1	0.0	6.43
Southport	1.0	0.10	3.37
Swansea	1.5	0.0	7.45
Torquay	2.8	0.01	8.46
Worcester	3.5	0.0	7.45
Wrexham	3.5	0.0	7.45

## EXTREMES

Warmest: Isles of Scilly 12C (54F)  
Coldest: (day) Hemby, Norfolk 0C (32F)  
Wettest: Scrimmow, Western Isles 0.28in  
Sunniest: Skidmouth, Devon 1.0 hrs  
For 24hrs to 2pm Monday

## THE WORLD

	Sea	Rain	Max
Abertillery	0.7	0.1	1.34
Anglesey	0.1	0.12	1.45
Armagh	0.2	0.1	1.30
Belfast	1.1	0.02	4.39
Birmingham	0.9	0.02	4.39
Bournemouth	3.6	0.01	7.45
Bristol	0.0	0.08	2.36
Cardiff	1.5	0.02	7.45
Carmarthen	2.0	0.0	6.43
Caswell	2.0	0.24	4.39
Cromer	6.0	0.02	1.34
Dundee	5.4	0.02	6.43
Edinburgh	0.7	0.05	7.45
Exeter	0.0	0.03	3.37
Gloucester	5.4	0.02	6.43
Harrogate	0.0	0.01	5.41
Hove	2.2	0.0	7.45
Isle of Man	1.2	0.0	6.43
Jarvis	2.1	0.01	9.48
Leeds	4.4	0.01	4.39
Lewisham	3.5	0.35	1.34
London	0.5	0.01	6.41
Lowestoft	1.0	0.42	2.36
Manchester	2.1	0.07	4.39
Margate	0.2	0.0	4.39
Merseyside	5.0	0.02	3.37
Newcastle	4.4	0.03	2.36
Newquay	2.9	0.07	4.39
Northwich	3.0	0.03	6.43
Oxford	3.5	0.01	7.45
Ross-on-Wye	0.0	0.04	3.37
Scarborough	1.1	0.07	4.39
Sheffield	0.1	0.0	6.43
Southport	1.0	0.10	3.37
Swansea	1.5	0.0	7.45
Torquay	2.8	0.01	8.46
Worcester	3.5	0.0	7.45
Wrexham	3.5	0.0	7.45

## THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

KEY: isobars: air pressure in mb  
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# Abuse widespread, say sporting elite

THE DAY that Ben Johnson was stripped of his 100m gold medal at the Seoul Olympics remains, 10 years on, a most vivid and tragic reminder of the effects of the explosive cocktail of drugs and sport. There was a world outcry, calls for tighter regulations and more testing.

Yet, according to *The Independent's* survey of Britain's sporting elite, the largest ever undertaken into the use of drugs among competitors here, the same questions and arguments are being raised. A decade on, the nation's sport - which is grappling with the voracious demands of television, sponsors and much greater

BY NICK HARRIS

commercialism - still has not cracked the drugs problem.

A majority of leading sportsmen and women believe their field has a problem with drugs. Despite significant advances in drug testing, most believe that cheats are continuing to beat the system. While just a small number admit to taking illegal drugs, only one-quarter believe their own sport is "clean".

Coming after a summer when the Tour de France was disrupted by doping scandals, world swimming had a spate of prominent drug-test failures, and allegations of drug-use in

British rugby resurfaced, a large number of respondents said they believed controls in their sports needed tightening.

*The Independent* sent out questionnaires to more than 1,300; only in cycling and rowing did the governing bodies decline to co-operate with the survey, which produced more than 300 replies. Most respondents were anonymous.

A male athlete of 34 echoed the sentiments of many. "What we saw from this year's Tour de France is that doping is rife among European cyclists. This suggests - judging by the fact that certain doctors and team managers actually advocate dop-

ing as a means of 'safeguarding health' - that it is probably not confined to cycling."

The use of anabolic steroids, which help build muscles and allow intensive training, has long been one of the most serious problems. Very few British sportsmen and women have ever failed drugs tests for steroids, but three respondents to *The Independent's* survey admitted using them, which suggests that many more may still be beating the system. Five respondents also admitted to illegal use of testosterone, which has similar benefits to those provided by steroids.

Three per cent of respon-

dents said they used stimulants such as amphetamines, which are used to improve mental sharpness and can help athletes through pain thresholds; 5 per cent used narcotic analgesics, which help eliminate pain; and 16 per cent admitted "caffeine-loading", which increases alertness.

Yet perhaps even more significant is the widespread belief that cheating is rife. Across all sports, 54 per cent believed that up to 30 per cent of those in their sport were using drugs illegally: 5 per cent believed between 30 and 60 per cent were doing so; and 4 per cent believed more than 60 per cent were cheating.

No respondent in rugby league and weightlifting believed their sport to be clean, while only 3 per cent of athletes did so. Among all respondents, 13 per cent cited steroids as a problem, which rose to 16 per cent in athletics, 40 per cent in weightlifting, 46 in rugby league and 31 per cent in rugby union.

Overall, 43 per cent called for better testing and harsher penalties, with the figure rising to 64 per cent in athletics, 46 per cent in rugby league, 61 per cent in rugby union, 48 per cent in swimming and 30 per cent in weightlifting.

Another indicator of the prevalence of drugs was that 9

per cent had been offered them by team mates, other participants or professional dealers. This figure rose to 46 per cent in rugby league.

The survey suggests the fight against drugs has some way to go, and it also shows a substantial minority have no ethical objection to taking drugs. More than 20 per cent said they would take drugs if they were legal, rising to 46 per cent in rugby league, 38 per cent in rugby union, 26 per cent in football, 22 per cent in tennis and 17, 15 and 13 per cent in cricket, swimming and athletics respectively.

"If others were improving as a result of taking performance

enhancing drugs and they were allowed, it would be silly not to use them to improve one's own performance and enhance the chance of international selection," said one cricketer of 34.

However, a swimmer reflected the views of many when he wrote: "The relaxing of drug laws would put tremendous pressure on people to take drugs, or else they would be driven from the sport and we will be left with a hard core of people who... will depend entirely on the correct cocktails of drugs rather than the correct combination of training. To me, this is not what sport is about and it should not be encouraged."

## Creatine: anatomy of a 'miracle' substance

THE NEXT time you watch a major sporting event, the chances are that more than half the participants will have used the controversial food supplement creatine. Nearly 57 per cent of the country's leading sportsmen and women have used the product, according to *The Independent's* survey.

BY NICK HARRIS AND CHARLES ARTHUR

made by the liver using amino acids from proteins.

Creatine acts as a "reservoir" for extra energy in the muscle. To contract, muscles use their limited stores of a chemical called ATP. When that is exhausted, creatine is used to make extra ATP to extend intense bursts of energy. Furthermore, because it is stable within the body - unlike ATP, which must be used quickly once made - it can help recovery after intense exercise.

Dr Nick Pritchard and Dr Philip Kohn reported in *The Lancet* medical journal earlier this year the case of a man who was successfully treated for minor kidney problems eight years ago, but in June last year had high levels of creatine - which can indicate kidney stress. The man told the doctors he had been taking creatine supplements for eight weeks as part of his pre-season soccer training. Dr Pritchard commented that there was "strong circumstantial evidence" that the substance caused the man's renewed kidney difficulties.

Dr Hudson, who is a technical adviser to the Welder bodybuilding company, said: "You can overdose on anything, even headache pills. If you have a family history of kidney problems, discuss it with your GP: certainly if you do then using creatine will raise your blood pressure."

A parallel concern is that the muscles swell with water when they absorb creatine. Dr Ross Bailey, who heads the sports

training department at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth in the United States, noted that: "Use of creatine tends to increase the permeability of the body's cells to certain toxins." He recommended that athletes should stop using it for four weeks after at most eight-week use.

Conor O'Shea, an Irish rugby union international, said: "We've been advised to go on it for a month or two and then off it for six weeks to make sure we're not at any risk from side-effects."

He added: "It's certainly in the back of my mind that it does no good at all, but I'll give it the benefit of the doubt."

One who will not give creatine the benefit of any doubt is Andy Robinson, the coach at Bath rugby union club. "I have read studies and taken advice from acknowledged experts and it seems obvious to me that more research needs to be done before athletes can safely take creatine supplements," he said.

Additional reporting: Chris Hewett, Phil Shaw

### WHAT TOP SPORTSMEN SAY ABOUT THE 'WONDER SUPPLEMENT'

#### Gary McAllister, footballer

The Coventry and Scotland international football captain has used creatine while recovering from a major knee injury. "The club doctor [at Coventry] has been fine about it. Basically they want you to take anything that's legal, which creatine is. People have said it helps recovery from little pulls and strains but I wouldn't use it for that. I used it for rehab."



#### Mark Foster, swimmer

One of Britain's most successful swimmers, the 1998 Commonwealth Games Gold medal winner endorses a creatine product. He says it gives him more energy. "Sport has gone so far with different training techniques and people are always looking for ways to perform better. I've definitely felt a difference, being able to train at a higher level. A lot of people have water retention [when on creatine] but I've had no ill effects."



#### Andy Robinson, rugby coach

The coach at Bath rugby club has forbidden his players from using creatine. "A number of coaches in Australia and New Zealand who once recommended creatine to their players have stopped doing so for the simple reason that not nearly enough is known about the long-term consequences of using it."



#### Arsène Wenger, football coach

Creatine use has been encouraged at Arsenal under the management of the Frenchman (left). The Arsenal players - many of whom took it during last season's Premier League and FA Cup Double-winning campaign - are among a wide range of footballers at club and international level to have used creatine.



#### Conor O'Shea, rugby player

The Irish rugby union international uses creatine mainly in the off season during heavy training, and takes six-week breaks between courses to avoid side-effects. "Creatine was introduced to me three or four years ago and it's something we've used much as a vitamin supplement would be. Physically I feel absolutely no different whatever. I'd never stand and advertise it and say it gives you a massive buzz. It doesn't."



#### Linford Christie, athlete

Britain's most successful-ever sprinter was using creatine as far back as 1992, the year of his Barcelona Olympics 100m gold medal win. He is one of several prominent British athletes - including 110m hurdles world record holder Colin Jackson - who have said they have used the substance. Athletes are amongst the most frequent users, with 57 per cent having tried it and 44 per cent using it on a regular basis.

#### DO YOU USE CREATINE?

Figures are total percentages of respondents' replies

	Total who have used	Used 1-3 times	Use sometimes	Use regularly
Athletics	57	13	20	24
Cricket	28	17	11	0
Football	43	24	13	6
Horse racing	5	5	0	0
Rugby league	100	15	23	62
Rugby union	85	27	39	19
Swimming	65	20	28	17
Weightlifting	100	20	30	50
All	57	18	21	18
Men***	59	19	22	18
Women***	46	18	13	15

\* Jockeys \*\* Includes powerlifting \*\*\* Athletics and swimming are the only sports in which respondents were separated into men and women

## Confessions of a rapidly expanding supplement user

A DESIGNER who works at *The Independent* took a course of creatine. This is how it worked for him.

WHEN ASKED to test creatine my initial worries were of being transformed from a guinea pig to a big fat pig. Dietary supplements are usually associated with back-street gyms and 20-stone Goliaths.

Nevertheless, I was convinced that I would be in good sporting company. My girlfriend wasn't so sure. "You'll end up a fat bastard," she declared.

Undeterred, I started a

month's course - an extra seven pounds of lean muscle the manufacturers claimed ...

**Week one. 13st 6lb**  
I took it five times a day for the first five days. It arrived in powdered form, then you just add water. I chose orange flavour because I like oranges. Unfortunately, oranges are one of the things it doesn't taste like. And it smells worse, but just hold your nose, and down it.

My usual weekly exercise consists of three, or four times at the gym, boxing class and football. After a few days I definitely felt an increase of ener-

gy levels while working out. I felt like going back and doing it again, not my usual thought.

**Week two. 13st 5lb**  
By this time I was feeling rather good. I don't know whether it was a mental thing, or the creatine, but I felt like coiled spring. It was time to unleash myself on to the football pitch. With flicks, back heels and dummies I started Creatin' a storm on the pitch.

**Week three. 13st 9lb**  
I discovered that no amount of creatine can relieve the cloudy tiredness experienced after a

heavy weekend. But I was definitely getting bigger.

**Week four. 13st 11lb**  
Five pounds - that was my weight gain but I am convinced I have bigger biceps and stronger thighs. My recovery levels and stamina were increased. I'd gained power and strength, although I don't know how much was physiological.

The best result that I found, however, was at work. I was perceived as being rock hard. Most of the blokes in the office were scared of me and even the editor kept his distance.

MARK HAYMAN

### TOMORROW IN THE SPORTS PAGES

WHY BRITISH COMPETITORS WANT MORE TESTING

HE'D RATHER CONVICT THE WRONG MAN THAN ADMIT SHE'S RIGHT.



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TV FROM THE HEART

# Mental health reforms 'need £1.5bn'

THE GOVERNMENT needs to inject at least £1.5bn into its care in the community reforms if they are to succeed, a mental health charity warned yesterday.

Other groups said that the Government's tough line on compulsory treatment was likely to cause "uproar" among the mental health community, with many believing the policy will backfire.

The Government will today draw a line under the contro-

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

versal policy when the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, publishes the White Paper on mental health.

Reforms include more acute and secure beds in psychiatric hospitals, more trained staff and the introduction of a 24-hour helpline. One of the more controversial plans gives doctors the power to force

patients who refuse to comply with treatment to be readmitted into hospital.

It is believed Mr Dobson will announce funding of £1.85bn from social services and £470m from the health service to cover the new plans. But the National Schizophrenia Fellowship said that without a cash injection of at least £500m per year until the end of this Parliament the reforms cannot succeed. "The money we have

heard about is only a third of what is needed," said a spokesman. "For the new reforms to work, we have to have the money to provide the services."

He said the Government's tough line was already causing worries for those with mental health backgrounds. "We are getting a lot of calls on our helpline, with people worrying about the 'nimbly' [not-in-my-backyard] effect. Our projects have done a lot of work to per-

sue people that those suffering from mental health problems are not dangerous but all this talk of getting them off the streets is endangering that good work."

A spokeswoman for the mental health charity Mind said that compulsory treatment would not work. "What is more it will backfire," she said. "It is people at ground level who will have to deal with this - psychiatric nurses and social work-

ers and they have already said it won't work. We think there will be uproar if the Government try to bring this in."

The proposals signal the Government's determination to reverse the care in the community policy, which has faced criticism after a succession of inquiries. These included the killing of Jonathan Zito by Christopher Clunis, a paranoid schizophrenic, at a London Underground station in 1992,

and Jonathan Newby, stabbed by John Rous, a schizophrenic patient in his care at a hostel in 1993.

The mental health charity Sane estimates a homicide is committed each week by a mentally ill person. This is dwarfed, however, by the great harm they do to themselves, with about 1,000 committing suicide every year.

Two million carers in Britain have been working for years

without a break, a survey estimated yesterday.

More than a quarter of people looking after bedridden parents or relatives have never had a holiday, said the report, by the Winged Fellowship charity.

One carer told the charity it was only after she became ill that anyone realised she had been looking after her husband for 10 years without a break. Another had not taken a holiday for eight years.

## 'We waste our time sorting out funding'

### THE HOSTEL MANAGER'S STORY

"I REALLY SEE red about this," said Mike Murphy. "We waste so much time trying to sort out funding that we could be using to care for people."

Mr Murphy is manager of a National Schizophrenia Fellowship assessment unit in Harrow - the sort of unit the Government wants to see more of. The unit cares for people released from secure units or psychiatric hospitals who need a half-way house before being returned to the community.

Thirteen staff look after six residents. Most are diagnosed schizophrenics, although some suffer from manic depression.

"We help them to avoid recurring breakdowns," says Mr Murphy. "Most people have a relatively short stay here - between one and three months. We look at their illness but we also help them with their relationships. We try to get to know them and get close to them."

During the day, the patients are free to do what they like, whether that is attending a day centre, doing a job or simply going out. There is no curfew and patients are trusted with their own medication.

With patients just out of se-

cure care, Mr Murphy admits there have been violent incidents, but emphasises that they have been scarce. All the staff carry alarms to alert their colleagues if an assault is taking place. "It is a risky business and we are not complacent. We need to give people a sense of security. If someone feels unsafe that is when they are more likely to attack someone else."

Mr Murphy says the unit has not been used as a dumping ground for those who should really be in hospital "but we've felt there has been a danger that people will forget about them once they're here, because they know they're in safe hands. We don't allow that."

But his major problem is organising funding for the unit, which takes up a large percentage of his time. "It is absolutely ridiculous," he says. "If someone comes to us in a crisis, they have to pay out of income support. It works out at £6.91 a night. At times of crisis the last thing people want to do is be worried about money - especially when you're dealing with people as deprived as the people we deal with."

GLENDA COOPER



Mike Murphy, manager of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship's assessment unit in Harrow

Roy Riley

## DEADLY TOLL

According to an analysis by the Zito Trust, an average of 20 people a year are killed in Britain by people suffering mental illness, chiefly schizophrenia. Subsequent inquiries often find breakdowns in supervision, and patients failing to take medication. On several occasions parents and siblings had pleaded to have the patient detained shortly before the killing. Among the cases were:

**Jonathan Zito**, a 27-year-old musician whose death on a London Tube platform led to the foundation of the Zito Trust. He was stabbed in the head by Christopher Clunis in December 1992.



**Jonathan Newby**, 22, was working as a volunteer in the Cirenians hostel for the homeless in Oxford. He was repeatedly knifed by resident John Rous in October 1993.

**Susan Crawford**, 33. Was stabbed 70 times by her boyfriend, Michael Folkes, also known as Lukewarm Luke. In October 1994. He was an out-patient at the Maudsley Hospital, London; the report following the inquiry into the killing was published last month.



**Christopher Edwards**, 30, who was on remand in Chelmsford Prison in November 1994 on a minor breach of the peace charge. Stamped and battered to death by his cell-mate Richard Linford, who had a long history of mental illness.

**Arthur and Shirley Wilson**, both 65. Strangled in their bungalow by their neighbour, discharged mental patient Jason Mitchell, 26, in December 1994, a few days after being released from St Clements Hospital, near Ipswich, to a halfway house. He then killed and dismembered his father, Robert Mitchell.

**Susan Hearman**, 25, and her daughters Julie-Anne, four, and Kylie Roberts, six. Killed when Darren Carr set fire to their Oxford home in January 1995. She had hired him as a live-in child minder shortly after he had been discharged from hospital with a psychiatric disorder which was judged to be untreatable.

**Lin Russell**, 45, and her six-year-old daughter Megan were killed in a hammer attack near their home in the village of Chillingden, near Canterbury, in July 1996. Nine-year-old Josie Russell suffered severe brain damage. In October this year Michael Stone, 38, was found guilty of their murders. He had a severe personality disorder but it had been deemed untreatable.



**Carla Thompson**, 57, a born-again Christian who took people with problems into her south London home. In January this year she was bludgeoned to death with a table leg by 19-year-old Daniel Joseph, who had been diagnosed as suffering paranoid psychosis and had stopped taking his medication. Her neighbour, 62-year-old Agnes Erume, was also battered but survived.

**Anthony Harrison**, 63, a retired civil servant. He was stabbed to death in his Andover home in April this year by Christopher Morfat, a schizophrenic who had walked out of Basildon's Parklands Hospital two months earlier, despite being under '15-minute observation'.



Kevin Olley: Leapt from 10th floor of hospital

## 'Supervision might have saved my son'

### THE MOTHER'S STORY

GRACE OLLEY says her schizophrenic son Kevin might still be alive if he had been more closely supervised. She hopes reforms to Care in the Community announced in today's White Paper will prevent at least some of the hundreds of suicides that happen each year.

Most mental-illness victims are not those killed or harmed by sufferers but sufferers themselves. Mr Olley, 26, leapt from the 10th floor of Lister Hospi-

tal, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, in April. In an earlier fall, from the sixth floor of a car park, he suffered severe facial wounds.

A few minutes before his death Mrs Olley heard his social worker ask a nurse at the Lister, where he was an in-patient, to keep a close eye on him. He had become furious during a meeting with his parents because they had failed to bring

him his guitar. The Lister has been under scrutiny recently because seven in-patients killed themselves in a six-month period up to last summer.

Mrs Olley accepts there was a high risk her son would commit suicide. Before his first leap he had overdosed on painkillers and drunk bleach. One of the most stable periods in his four years of illness was

when he was transferred to a secure unit at Fairfield's Hospital, near Letchworth, Bedfordshire. There he could only leave the ward if accompanied by a staffer.

During his final stay at the Lister he used to leave the hospital unaccompanied to visit a friend in town. Mrs Olley said: "We can't go back to Victorian asylums. But there are

people who need to be in an institution-type atmosphere for some periods."

An independent review was carried out into the seven suicides at the Lister, reporting in October. It found problems with supervision and staff shortages, and recommended improvements.

North Herts NHS Trust, which runs the Lister, defended its supervision of patients.

NICHOLAS SCHOON

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# New test for cervical cancer on trial

SCIENTISTS HAVE developed a new smear test which, it is claimed, could reduce the error rate and avoid the blunders and scandals which have dogged the cervical screening service.

The test, pioneered by scientists at Cambridge, is in the early stages of trials, but the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC) claims it could save hundreds of lives each year and reduce the cost of the screening service.

At a press conference yesterday Frank Dobson, the

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

Health Secretary, said that if full clinical trials supported the early results it would be introduced regardless of cost.

At present using the conventional Pap test, screeners have to look at around 300,000 cells per smear, which makes it easy to miss abnormalities.

The new test works by using antibodies which home in on abnormal cells in a conventional smear test. A coloured dye is

used to highlight the antibodies so that the abnormal cells can be identified more easily.

The antibodies home in on protein molecules called Cdc6 and Mcm5 which are only present on cells which have the potential to replicate. "Healthy" cells should not be dividing.

So far researchers have done a trial on 58 cervical smears and compared the findings of the new test with the Pap test and/or a cervical biopsy.

In this small sample the new test found abnormalities in

three smears which had been diagnosed as normal by the Pap test. The three problem cases were then re-examined and shown to have low-grade abnormalities on the smear. Biopsies revealed high-grade abnormalities in all three cases.

The scientists say that in future the first level of screening could be carried out by computers, which would reduce the level of error and also free up screeners to examine more problematic smears. It is hoped that the clinical trials will be

completed within three years. Gordon McVie, director general of the CRC, described it as "one of the most exciting results" saying: "If large-scale trials prove successful I believe it could be an ideal solution to the mistaken cervical smear diagnoses which we have sadly heard so much about."

Last year a Department of Health report concluded that more than one in three laboratories where cervical smear tests are examined failed to meet national standards.

The screening service also faced criticism over the weekend when a report from the Public Accounts Committee said that there were still "significant failings" at every level.

Mr Dobson said that the Government was determined to raise the reliability of cervical and breast cancer screening.

"No test can be perfect but the standard in many places was simply not good enough," he said. "The system was failing and the system is being changed. But this new devel-

opment, if it proves effective and reliable, could make the job a lot easier by easing the task of cytology screeners and giving a massive boost to the accuracy of the test."

He added that "no financial considerations" would delay the implementation of the test if it proved a success in clinical trials.

A spokeswoman for the NHS cervical screening programme said she welcomed any research which offered improvement. "However any new test

needs to be carefully assessed to ensure it is both clinically effective and cost-effective," she said. "The CRC test is clearly in the very early stages of development and has so far undergone limited testing."

Cancer of the cervix is the fifth most common cancer among women. The NHS screening programme was set up in 1988, and women aged between 20 and 64 are called for a cervical smear every three to five years. Since 1983, deaths have fallen by a third.

## Clegg tells of moment before firing

PRIVATE LEE Clegg, the soldier jailed for the murder of a Belfast teenager in 1990, yesterday defended his decision to fire at the stolen car in which she was travelling.

In the first day of his re-trial over the killing, the 31-year-old paratrooper relived the frantic moments that led to the death of 18-year-old Karen Reilly. At one point he held an imaginary rifle in his arms to portray to the court how he fired at the car.

The paratrooper, who was jailed for life but freed on licence in 1995, said he and his patrol had been warned that evening of the likelihood of terrorist attack before they set up a roadblock on the Glen Road.

He described how "bloody frightened" he had been on patrol in Northern Ireland especially during periods of "high terrorist activity".

The shots he fired were the first he had discharged in his five months of active service. His only other experience of weaponry had been during training.

Clegg said he had been cer-

BY MATTHEW BRACE

tain the car had hit a colleague and described the moment when he opened fire.

"I thought, 'Bloody hell, it has hit him'. When it had done that it came across to my side of the road. It was coming directly across to my position," he said.

The incident was over "literally in a flash".

"You are bloody frightened - in this environment, unfortunately, with high terrorist activity and we had been given a briefing by intelligence that it is imminent that PIRA (Provisional IRA) are going to attack," he said.

His defence counsel, William Clegg QC, added that the paratrooper and his unit had not been told they were part of an operation to deter joy-riders, as that might have resulted in them lowering their guard.

He also said Private Clegg was acting in defence of a fellow soldier.

"There was a genuine and reasonably held fear in the mind of Private Clegg that his patrol that night could be the target for terrorist attack," he said.

"The anticipation of terrorist attack had been intensified at an intelligence briefing given to this patrol that very evening," said the QC.

There was also the question of Private Clegg's so-called Yellow Card training.

"We were told there were situations on the yellow card that would permit you, always depending on the circumstances, to open fire, and that if you acted in accordance with the rules and regulations of this yellow card you were bound by law to be OK," he explained.

The trial continues.



Clegg described being frightened on patrol



The Titanic restaurant, whose opening has sparked a foodie feud between Marco Pierre White, top right, and Atlantic owner Oliver Peyton, below right. Nicola Kurtz

## Marco's Titanic: lawyers and PRs first

IN KEEPING with its name and its owner's reputation, the opening of the Titanic restaurant was never going to go smoothly. Marco Pierre White's latest venture is already at the centre of a storm that has been brewing for the last month.

The trouble, it seems, is the location. The Titanic sits above Oliver Peyton's Atlantic Bar and Grill, in what used to be the Regent Palace hotel, off Piccadilly Circus in the West End of London.

BY EMMA COOK

The two restaurants' quarters are a little too snug for comfort. The Atlantic's management is getting increasingly irritated by confused customers thinking the two are connected. "We've got nothing to do with them," said a spokesman.

It is a food fight made in heaven: a clash of London's top restaurateurs under one roof. Both favour an exclusive guest list - White's restaurant will be

open to all comers but the bar will be members only, while the Atlantic's door is still jealously guarded by bouncers.

Peyton's team may feel understandably galled when they hear that a section of London's most fashionable population is in the building, eating and drinking at another venue.

A fortnight ago, Peyton, who also owns London's painfully trendy restaurants Mash and Coast, told the Evening Standard's Londoner's Diary, "I

am not happy with what Marco Pierre White has done."

Yesterday a spokeswoman confirmed that Peyton had served a High Court writ on his landlords, the Granada group and Post House Hotels. Peyton argues that an exclusion clause in his lease prevents the landlords from letting the property to another restaurant.

Sarah Canet, Peyton's spokeswoman, says, "We want to reiterate the fact that our dispute is not with Marco Pierre

White. It's not a feud. The dispute is between us, Granada and Post House Hotels: it's about the lease and a term within it. It's not just to do with them bringing in Marco but about other things they're doing."

Although both sides deny any personal fracas, the division of the two camps seems particularly marked, given their choice of PR representatives: each has hired one half of former husband-and-wife team Alan and Elizabeth Crompton-

Batt, who are now divorced.

Yet as the Mayday martinis were being lined up last night, both sides refused to be drawn.

Alan Crompton-Batt, acting for Marco Pierre White, said: "We haven't done anything wrong except for parking our tanks on Oliver's lawns. At least we respect the quality of what he does. And yes, Marco and Oliver could easily sit down and have a beer together." Precisely in whose restaurant he wouldn't say.



Nicola Kurtz

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£1,813.20, £1,841.94, £1,870.93, £1,899.17, £1,927.66, £1,956.40, £1,985.39, £2,014.63, £2,044.12, £2,073.86, £2,103.85, £2,134.09, £2,164.58, £2,195.32, £2,226.31, £2,257.55, £2,289.04, £2,320.78, £2,352.77, £2,385.01, £2,417.50, £2,450.24, £2,483.23, £2,516.47, £2,549.96, £2,583.70, £2,617.69, £2,651.93, £2,686.42, £2,721.16, £2,756.15, £2,791.39, £2,826.78, £2,862.42, £2,898.31, £2,934.45, £2,970.84, £3,007.48, £3,044.37, £3,081.51, £3,118.90, £3,156.54, £3,194.43, £3,232.57, £3,270.96, £3,309.60, £3,348.49, £3,387.63, £3,426.92, £3,466.46, £3,506.15, £3,546.09, £3,586.28, £3,626.62, £3,667.21, £3,708.05, £3,749.14, £3,790.48, £3,831.97, £3,873.61, £3,915.50, £3,957.64, £3,999.93, £4,042.37, £4,085.06, £4,127.99, £4,171.17, £4,214.60, £4,258.28, £4,302.21, £4,346.39, £4,390.72, £4,435.30, £4,479.13, £4,523.21, £4,567.54, £4,612.12, £4,656.95, £4,702.03, £4,747.36, £4,792.94, £4,838.77, £4,884.85, £4,931.18, £4,977.76, £5,024.59, £5,071.67, £5,118.99, £5,166.56, £5,214.38, £5,262.45, 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£60,671.89, £60,844.39, £61,017.14, £61,190.14, £61,363.39, £61,536.89, £61,710.64, £61,8



Sculptor Angela Conner checking her statue of Sir Noël Coward, which will be unveiled today by the Queen Mother at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in London

## Depressed asylum seeker kills himself

AN INQUIRY has been launched after a Chinese asylum seeker was found dead while under special observation at a psychiatric hospital.

Lin Yan-Guang, 35, was discovered in his room by staff at Warley Hospital in Brentwood, Essex. It was revealed yesterday that Mr Yan-Guang's family had borrowed up to £20,000 to send him to Britain. He had been in Britain a year, but depressed and unable to find work, he was admitted to Warley where he was assessed and put under special observation.

"He was desperate. He kept holding on to me and crying," said Sophia Jones, a friend who visited him in hospital two days before he died. "He wanted to go home but he knew he couldn't, because his family had borrowed all this money to send him here. He knew he had to try and pay it back."

Barking, Havering and

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Brentwood Hospital Community NHS Trust, responsible for Warley Hospital said Mr Yan-Guang had been admitted in September. "An inquiry is now underway," said a spokeswoman. An inquest has also been opened and adjourned.

Mr Yan-Guang was one of a growing number of Chinese citizens who are seeking asylum in Britain. In 1992 there were just 330 applications from Chinese nationals, while in the first 10 months of this year there were 1,310. Last year only 25 such requests for asylum were granted.

Even solicitors working on behalf of many of these cases admit the chances of them obtaining asylum are slim. Most of the cases arriving in Britain do not meet the requirements laid down by the immigration authorities, yet hundreds of

Chinese citizens continue to arrive - at times this year there were up to 30 arrivals a week.

There is growing evidence that many asylum seekers are paying up to £20,000 to criminals, known as "snakeheads", who promise to get them into the West, via "snake routes" through Moscow or Bangkok.

Police believe most of the recent asylum-seekers come from two Chinese towns in the eastern province of Fujian. According to a recent report compiled by the Chinatown Liaison Unit of the Metropolitan Police, some of the Fujianese immigrants have formed their own gangs, which have clashed with the already established Triads.

"When these people get on the plane or bus or whatever they usually don't know where they are going. It might be London, it might be New York," said a police source. "Before they arrive they destroy all

their documents, so we cannot prove they are Chinese."

Another problem is the growing incidence of kidnappings of asylum-seekers by rival snakeheads who then phone up their families in China to demand ransoms.

"There seem to be reports of such incidents every couple of months," said Wah-Piow Tan, a solicitor who works with Chinese asylum seekers.

In the most recent incident of alleged kidnapping, five men are said to have held three victims hostage for up to a week before they were rescued by police. Five people are due to appear before Bow Street Magistrates today, charged with false imprisonment.

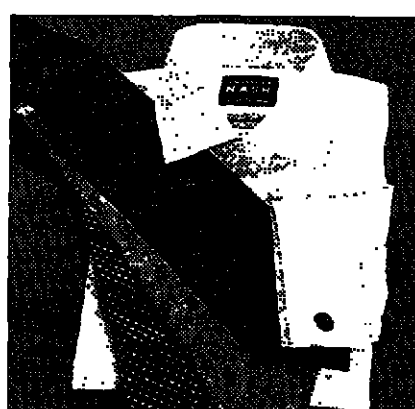
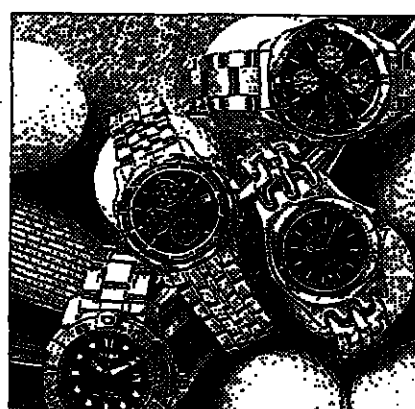
Meanwhile Mr Yan-Guang's family in China are trying to raise more money - this time so that his younger brother can come to Britain to collect his cremated remains.

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## 'Painless' jab to compete with Viagra

THOUSANDS OF impotent men could soon be able to boost their sexual performances by painlessly injecting a Viagra-type drug directly into the penis.

A small pharmaceutical company yesterday revealed that it was close to developing an "impotence kit" to compete with the diamond-shaped tablet in the \$1bn (£600m) a year market for impotence drugs.

The kit will include a "needleless syringe" which uses a burst of helium to "inject" a dose of Alprostadil, an anti-impotence compound, directly into the penis without the pain and the risks associated with "normal" injections.

Alprostadil is a fast-acting drug - it can be used 10 minutes before sexual intercourse to achieve maximum results, according to doctors.

Viagra users have to plan at least an hour ahead.

Powderject Pharmaceuticals, the company behind the revolutionary treatment, yesterday said that preliminary trials of the syringe and the drug showed that it was "effective and well tolerated".

The company will start fir-

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ther trials in March and it plans to launch the kit on the market by 2001.

Paul Drayson, the chief executive of Powderject, said that Alprostadil will be targeted to the thousands of men who cannot take Viagra because of its side effects.

It is estimated that around half of all men over the age of 40 are affected by some form of impotence.

However, around 20 per cent of sufferers are not allowed to take Viagra because of the risks of heart attack or damage to their vision.

Alprostadil is currently used with conventional syringes to trigger erections. However, very few men use it regularly because it is a painful and frightening procedure.

"No one likes to inject their penis with a sharp needle", Mr Drayson said. However, the Powderject method should minimise the risk and the pain.

The company claims that the needleless syringe is entirely pain-free and users feel no more than a "slight warming up of the exposed area".

### IN BRIEF

#### First adult-to-adult liver transplant

SPECIALIST SURGEONS at a London hospital have successfully carried out Europe's first adult-to-adult liver transplant. In an 11-hour operation at Croomwell Hospital, 43-year-old Mehry Shojai's damaged liver was replaced with a section of her 19-year-old daughter Arezoo's organ.

#### Boy dies after crash at ski centre

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy injured in an accident at an artificial ski slope died yesterday. Antonio Dispenza fractured his skull on Saturday at the Wycombe Summit Ski Centre in High Wycombe, Bucks. It is believed he suffered a cardiac arrest after hitting barriers at the foot of the slope.

#### Tenth body exhumed in GP case

POLICE INVESTIGATING doctor Harold Shipman, charged with murdering eight patients, exhumed another body, the tenth so far. He is to face magistrates again for criminal proceedings to Crown Court on three murder charges.

#### Jail term for Macmillan grandson

THE ADOPTED grandson of the former prime minister Harold Macmillan was yesterday jailed for four years for possessing 100kg of cannabis, valued at £300,000. Patrick Heath, 37, was arrested at his home in Bristol last March.

### HAMISH MCRAE



The hereditary principle is dead; long live the hereditary practice

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

### A Christmas Message

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to all our friends who have generously supported our Hospice during 1998. Your donations have helped to bring care, comfort and support to many patients and their families again this year. May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Sister Superior

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صكرا من الامين



# Hunger striker's supporters prepare for his death



Alison Lawson, Horne's next of kin, with supporters outside York District Hospital yesterday

Kippa Matthews

BY VANESSA THORPE

BARRY HORNE, the imprisoned animal rights activist who has been on hunger strike since 6 October, was still able to speak a little last night, but is losing clarity of thought. Supporters are now waiting for news of his death.

Horne's friend and daily visitor, Alison Lawson, told supporters staging a 24-hour vigil outside the hospital that his condition had noticeably deteriorated during the day. "He is definitely worse," she said as she left his guarded room at York District Hospital. "Barry is still conscious but he is not able to focus any more."

Ms Lawson, Horne's nominated next-of-kin, added, "His spirits are amazingly high. His skin has changed colour now and his eyesight has virtually gone. The hearing in one ear has gone too and he can't hold down water any longer."

Once he loses consciousness Horne's living will comes into force, forbidding nurses from feeding him as he approaches his 63rd day without food. Bobby Sands, the IRA



Barry Horne: Said to be losing clarity of thought

hunger striker, died in 1981 after 66 days.

Nevertheless, Horne is keen to hear press reports of his protest. "He remains very optimistic," said Ms Lawson. "He still hopes Labour will change their mind and announce a Royal Commission into animal experiments."

As Horne, a convicted fire bomber, lies struggling for breath his supporters wait at the camp they have built, flanked by placards and

posters. Some are carefully laminated and carry considered arguments which highlight the Government's unfulfilled promises on animal rights. Other banners simply say "Don't let Barry die for Labour's lie".

It will not be long before he falls into a coma," confirmed Brendan McNally, one of Horne's former friends in the animal rights movement.

Another supporter, Sue Stone, has travelled to York on business and joined the vigil for part of the day. She is angered by suggestions that she and Horne's other supporters care about animals more than they do about people. "I don't think there is a choice. If you care about life you care about both," she said.

Her view was not shared by a middle-aged pedestrian who said she helps raise money for the hospital. "It's disgraceful that people like you are prepared to threaten other people's lives with your attacks," she said. "Let him commit suicide if he wants to. You should all go home and do something useful."

## Cigarette firms 'failed to alter tar'

TOBACCO COMPANIES

Gallagher and Imperial Tobacco have failed for over 40 years to accept the obvious truth - that smoking causes cancer, the High Court was told yesterday.

At the opening of a crucial stage in a compensation battle which has been brought by 52 British lung cancer sufferers, Brian Langstaff QC said that there was, by 1967, no doubt of the significant health risk attached to smoking cigarettes.

Reputable research on tobacco tar products in the Fifties culminated in 1957 with a report from the Medical Research Council, which concluded that cigarettes caused cancer.

Mr Langstaff said that any responsible manufacturer would be aware of that and had a duty to alter its product so as to minimise the risk. He alleged that between 1957 and 1971, the technology was available for the tar level in cigarettes to have been progressively reduced from well over 30mgs per cigarette to no more than 10 mgs.

The court is to hear eight test cases so that it can decide whether 36 of the 52 cases can proceed, despite the fact that the plaintiffs are "out of time" for failing to sue within three years of lung cancer diagnosis.

The hearing, which paves the way for a full trial - due in January 2000 - is expected to last two weeks, with a ruling from Mr Justice Wright expected after Christmas.

The hopes of the plaintiffs have been raised by a succession of awards of damages against tobacco companies in the United States. But those victories have been largely based on state laws, which allow state governments to sue the tobacco companies for the costs of treating the people they are deemed to have harmed. Dozens of individual cases, such as those being brought in Britain, have failed.

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

co companies for the costs of treating the people they are deemed to have harmed. Dozens of individual cases, such as those being brought in Britain, have failed.

Mr Justice Wright must weigh the merits of the case and the balance of prejudice to either side to decide whether to exercise his discretion, under the 1980 Limitations Act, to allow the cases to proceed.

Mr Langstaff said the eight had suffered injury because the cigarettes they smoked between the Fifties and Seventies contained more tar than was reasonably safe or appropriate.

As far as the plaintiffs were aware, neither of the companies involved - which between them had some 80 per cent of the market - had ever publicly accepted that cigarettes caused lung cancer and that the risk rose with the tar content.

"Their position is not asserting the contrary - but not accepting the truth of those two central planks. There has been a failure by both companies to accept the obvious."

The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

Next week a White Paper will be presented to MPs which claims that cigarette companies are deliberately targeting young people.

Government tactics to reduce smoking among young people could include bringing forward a ban on billboard cigarette advertisements by a year to 2000.

The European Union has ordered tobacco ads to disappear from hoardings by 2001.

## New ITV channel targets the young

ITV LAUNCHED its first new television channel since its own launch in 1955 yesterday. A channel in its own image only more so.

ITV2, which will be broadcast free as part of the ONdigital package as well as on cable channels, will concentrate on soaps, sport and quiz shows in an effort to attract a younger audience than its parent channel.

The new channel will re-broadcast the main channel's soap operas *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale* at 10pm every night for those who might have missed them earlier and it will give such ITV stars as Trevor McDonald and John Suchet their own shows. There will also be a compilation programme called *The Best of This Morning*.

Mr McDonald will host his own chat show and Mr Suchet will front a current affairs programme entitled *Who? What? Why?*

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

gramme entitled *Who? What? Why?*

ITV also plans to exploit its ownership of the television rights to Champion's League football and the Rugby World Cup to try to encourage take up of the digital equipment needed to receive ITV2 and ONdigital. ITV is predicting that 10 million homes will have digital receiving equipment by 2005.

Consumers will need a £200 set top box and possibly a new aerial to receive the digital version of the channel. ONdigital has struggled to get enough set top boxes into the shops since it launched last month.

Much of the channel's own programmes will be low-budget, studio-based, such as game shows and a teenage magazine strand called *Bed Rock*.

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key mounted engine immobiliser, which helps prevent the car from being taken by any unscrupulous characters. While the advanced suspension design ensures better handling around corners, the acoustically engineered body minimises road noise, allowing a quieter ride. Incredibly, all this from £6,999 (including 3 years' free insurance!) makes the Saxo a tough proposition to resist. For further information call 0800 262 262



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# Army life revived as Redwood goes through the motions

QUESTIONS TO George Robertson began with some anxious enquiries about the effect of Territorial Army cuts on cadet forces, a dull subject but one that would have had a certain Proustian force for anyone who has ever staggered across a playing field waving a football rattle to emulate the flanking fire of a Bren gun. Robert Wareing, for example, spoke for several MPs (mostly Tory) when he asked whether the minister had taken into account "the much greater enthusiasm" that comes when cadets associate with TA units. I found myself a little sceptical about this – the one Territorial Army officer I encountered

in my own compulsory cadet service being a man who had missed the height requirement for the regulars by the sort of margin that heel lifts cannot bridge. The only enthusiasm he generated was amongst those boys who took bets on how much equipment he would bring with him, crammed into a rucksack that towered at least a foot over his head.

Once started, this train of memories proved difficult to interrupt. Later a Conservative backbencher pressed the minister on how he intended to retain ethnic minority recruits once they had been persuaded to join up. This was a

coded reference to the fact that being used as an *ad hoc* lavatory brush by some Neanderthal in khaki doesn't give a very encouraging notion of career prospects. But for me it also brought back another memory I would have preferred to remain buried – the image of the ablation arrangements at an army training camp somewhere in the Scottish Highlands. The lavatory here consisted of an immense clay pipe with a row of openings along the top – something like a giant ocarina – on which covey cadets would perch. It sloped gently from one end to the other so that the deposits of your comrades

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

would slide slowly past beneath you on a thin trickle of water as you attempted to overcome the

paralysing rictus of the sphincter brought on by this unenvying form of evacuation.

I don't want to harp on about this unusual piece of sanitaryware but it also came to mind when I was watching John Redwood, glumly sedentary as Peter Mandelson read out his statement on the future of the Post Office. Usually ministerial statements provoke more reaction from the opposition. Some particularly noxious assertion will glide past and the relevant Shadow will leap up and shout the Parliamentary equivalent of "My God, that's an absolute whopper!" Then after a bit of argy-bargy production will

resume again. But yesterday Mr Redwood waited until the last gaseous toot had faded ("We are ushering in the start of a confident, bright new dawn for the Post Office") before rising on the attack.

Encounters between Mr Mandelson and Mr Redwood have taken on the air of a genuine grudge match, a sense of direct antagonism which is accentuated by their physical similarities. Both men are tall and lean, dark-haired and narrow of visage, both can be distinctly mechanical in their manner. Indeed it is possible at times to imagine they have emerged from the same production line – Mr Mandelson

being a later design evolution of the Redwood prototype, with sleeker streamlining and enhanced irony and Guile features. Certainly some design work was necessary. It's clear, for instance, that the humour chip is defective in the older model. "It is a second class statement and it won't be delivered on time," said Mr Redwood, inserting a brief ad-lib into his prepared riposte. Mr Mandelson offered a retaliatory postal bon mot: his remarks, he said, "should be stamped 'Return to Sender' and sent back to Central Office". I thought of the ocarina, again – and of its most alarming feature. It had no chain.

# Free meters will 'help to protect poor'

MOVES TO introduce water meters free will help to protect the most vulnerable members of society, the Government said yesterday, despite concerns that there could be a "flood of new meter users".

Michael Meacher, Environment Minister, said measures to outlaw disconnection for non-payment of bills for homeowners, schools and hospitals would make it easier for users to opt for meters if they wanted. Opening the second reading debate of the Water Industry Bill, he admitted a big increase of customers switching to meters could force up charges for other users but the rise should be "manageable" against the high costs incurred improving water.

At present, 14 per cent of households have a meter, with 2 per cent or 3 per cent switching to them each year. "The consequences for other charges will depend on the rate of switching, the characteristics of those for whom meters are installed and the manner in which costs are apportioned between different customers," Mr Meacher said.

## WATER INDUSTRY BILL

By SARAH SCHAEFER

between different customers," Mr Meacher said.

The measure would protect against big bills for families with three or more children on low incomes and people with medical conditions requiring a lot of water. "This is a relatively small but important and valuable Bill, giving significant benefits to millions of people. It will protect vulnerable groups, prevent disconnections and extend consumer choice, while enhancing conservation."

Despite the new policy on disconnections, this was not a "soft option" for those who deliberately avoided paying bills, because a range of procedures would still be available to water companies, including calling in bailiffs or getting costs deducted direct from customers' earnings.

The Bill reverses plans to drop the basing of water charges on house rateable values from 2000.

Mr Meacher said ministers

were not opposed in principle to basing charges on council-tax bands if such a system could be refined. They were willing to look at all future options and claimed, to Tory denials, that the March 2000 deadline showed the Conservative government had planned to opt for compulsory water metering.

But Simon Burns, Tory spokesman on the environment, transport and regions, dismissed the Bill as a "missed opportunity", because it would do "nothing" to enhance competition or benefit the water industry and its consumers. "Much of this Bill formalises what many companies are already doing when it could have been used to improve the services to consumers and improved the competition in the industry," he said.

Mr Burns urged the Government to add provisions which would also exclude further and higher education establishments, residential and private nursing homes and children's homes from the threat of disconnections.



Stars of 'The End of the Peer Show' rehearsing at the Players' Theatre in London yesterday for last night's performance to mark the retirement of Lord Rix as chairman of Mencap. From left, Lords Renton, Healey, Janner, Gisborough, Rix, Montagu and Earl Alexander. Neville Elder

# MPs want 'family-friendly' hours

A COMMITTEE of MPs paved the way for reforms of parliamentary working hours yesterday, despite fierce criticism by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons.

The all-party select committee on modernisation of the

House, chaired by Commons Leader Margaret Beckett, recommended in a report that the House should introduce more family-friendly working hours and experiment with morning sittings on Thursdays.

But Miss Boothroyd said such changes would limit public access to Parliament, cost more and damage her ability to do her job.

The Government proposed bringing forward Thursday sittings by three hours, to start at 11.30am, with main business finished at 7pm, rather than 10pm.

The proposals, to be debated next week by the Commons,

## COMMONS REFORM

By SARAH SCHAEFER

would be implemented from January and run through to the end of the current parliamentary session next autumn.

Miss Boothroyd, in her submission to the committee earlier this year, warned that some benefits of the change might prove "illusory" because they would have "adverse implications for me, for Members, for the public and for the administration of the House."

She warned that the chances for the public to visit the Commons would be cut to only Mon-

day and Tuesday as a result and would be a "pretty thin fare for a people's Parliament".

Opening offices earlier would cost more and could pose problems if an early Thursday sitting followed a late Wednesday rising, she argued.

The change could also restrict MPs' opportunities to seek emergency statements, and her time to get fully briefed about the agenda and MPs' special interests in the subjects to be debated, with the "inevitable result, sadly, of poorer service to Members".

But the report made clear that while public attention was

valued, the committee believed "the electorate expects its Parliament to be a workplace more than a showplace".

The possibility of weekend and recess access was being "actively considered", it added, while acknowledging that a "significant minority" of MPs making representations to it opposed the change.

The committee also rejected Miss Boothroyd's suggestion that the Commons meet for a number of five-day weeks with an occasional whole week when the House would not sit, saying Thursday morning sittings offered more advantages.

# Right to juries in question

A BILL to end the automatic right for a trial by jury could be introduced this parliamentary session if time permits, it emerged yesterday.

Ministers are drawing up proposals to reduce court time for such cases as petty crimes by ending jury trials. Sources at the Home Office said that the legislation, which is a manifesto commitment, could be "another rabbit the Government could pull out of its hat" if more legislative time is freed.

The Government expects sufficient time will be made available because of its earlier

## JUSTICE

By SARAH SCHAEFER

concession to reprove nearly 100 hereditary peers.

"There is not necessarily a need for jury trials in all cases and ministers are presently working towards proposals which would speed up the justice system," said the source at the Home Office.

There are also suggestions that the law on complicated fraud cases could be altered, but the Government is concentrating on proposals dealing with petty crimes, he said.

The plans are another example of the Government's expectation that its willingness to keep 91 hereditaries in the Lords during the interim period between stage one and stage two of the reform will allow for more legislative time.

Although Tory leader William Hague has repeatedly expressed his opposition to the Lords deal, Lord Strathclyde, the party's new Leader of the Lords, has signalled that peers would vote for it.

To hamper peers' "guerrilla tactics" to delay legislation, the Government has offered to

consult all peers over Bills in the Queen's Speech so that any difficulties can be resolved in private meetings before they are debated in the Lords.

As revealed in *The Independent*, Baroness Jay has written to Opposition whips and Lord Weatherill, the chairman of crossbench peers, to offer meetings with ministers.

Bills to create a strategic rail authority and a food standards agency – both regarded as "missing elements" of the Queen's Speech – are also likely to be introduced if legislative time is freed.

# Gordon Brown's father dies at 84

THE FATHER of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, died after collapsing on his way home from a trip to the shops in the snow, yesterday.

The Rev John Brown, 84, a retired Church of Scotland minister, was a few hundred yards from his home in Inver, Aberdeenshire. He was dead on arrival at hospital.

Mr Brown lived with his wife Elizabeth – known as Buntie. The couple had three sons, Gordon, 47, John, 50, and Andrew, 42.

A spokesman for Mr Brown said the Chancellor learned of his father's death yesterday morning. He said: "He immediately travelled up to Scotland to make the necessary arrangements." The Chancellor is due in the Commons for a debate on taxation tomorrow and for treasury questions on Thursday but it is unclear whether he would now attend.

## THE HOUSE



### Saddam 'still blocking inspection'

SADDAM HUSSEIN was still withholding important documents from UN weapons inspectors, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, warned. He said UNSCOM inspectors were building up to full strength and they would carry out a number of "key investigations" in the next few weeks.

### Euro campaign 'propaganda'

THE GOVERNMENT was attacked for a "disingenuous" advertising campaign in preparing small businesses for the start of the euro. Calling for a National Audit Office inquiry, Andrew Robathan, the Conservative MP for Blaby, claimed it could fall into the category of "propaganda" and "abuse of public money" outlined in the Neil committee's report on standards in public life.

### Today's business

Commons: Questions to Scottish ministers and the Lord Chancellor's department. Road Traffic (UNIS charges) Bill, second reading. Short debate on rail fares. Lords: Debate on strategic defence review. Police Act (Practitioner of Action in Respect of Property) (Code of Authorisations) Order. Police Act (Notification of Authorisations) Order. Debate on developments in Sudan.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Flight row

Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry minister, took a flight from Liverpool to London costing more than £1,300 earlier this year. Peter Mandelson disclosed. A private aircraft was chartered to get Mr McCartney from Liverpool to London in time for an urgent meeting in February, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry said.

### HSE cash

The Health and Safety Commission is to get an extra £23m government cash over the next three years, the Environment minister, Michael Meacher said.

### Defence pact

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, dismissed Tory claims that an Anglo-French defence initiative would undermine Nato as a "storm in the Europhobic teacup".

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سكزا من الاصل



# For sale: Modern British art, one careful owner

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

TODAY, ONE of the age's most successful and enigmatic collectors of contemporary art begins to off-load. Charles Saatchi, as influential in the Nineties' world of pickled sheep as he was in the Eighties' world of advertising, is selling 130 works by 97 young artists - more than 5 per cent of his £70m cutting-edge collection, which he bought for around £20m.

Christie's will be mounting the £1m sale - which includes Rachel Whiteread's cast of the space around a kitchen sink and Jake and Dinos Chapman's fibreglass rendition of physicist Stephen Hawking in his wheelchair on a cliff - in a building next to Smithfield meat market. Perhaps the venue is appropriate, as one of Damien Hirst's exhibits comprises four cabinets containing jars of cows' internal organs.

It is also true that when the likes of Hirst and Whiteread are off-loaded, alarm bells ring. Does the Saatchi sale have im-



Influential collector Charles Saatchi (left), and his protégé, the installation artist Damien Hirst



According to the traditionalist art critic Brian Sewell, "Utterly frivolous, brash, superficial, ostentatious, the author of incalculable damage, (Saatchi) is the collector for our time. A century hence posterity will marvel, not at his so-called works of art, but that we were so credulous and gullible."

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, disagrees: "Saatchi's contribution should be welcomed for stimulating debate." Most of Mr Saatchi's artists, too, are quick to defend him, but the abstract painter Sean Scully, whom he collected in bulk then dropped, has said: "It's incorrect to call it a collection. It is correct to call it stock."

It is a debate the 54-year-old collector rarely graces with an opinion. Only once, when he presented the Turner Prize to his protégé Damien Hirst, did he give an intriguing, and typically soundbite, insight into his philosophy. Some of the art he collects appears, he said, to be "tasteless, cynical and uncouth, but I think it's because sometimes we all are".



'Urbemensch', by Jake and Dinos Chapman



'Prop', by Jenny Saville, should get £10,000-15,000

plications beyond his collection and signal the beginning of the end of the "Sensation" crowd?

The prices paid today will give some clue, but the demise of the Britpack's fame and wealth is unlikely. Graham Southern, director of contemporary art at Christie's, points out that Mr Saatchi is already buying up more works of the artists he is selling, and is mounting the sale to raise money for art schools.

But the fact a sale of 5 per cent of one collection can give

rise to such speculation - and include nearly all the key names in British contemporary art - shows how Mr Saatchi has cornered the market. When the Royal Academy mounted its "Sensation" exhibition last year, every exhibit was from Mr Saatchi's white-walled St John's Wood gallery.

Some detractors saw it as little more than a catalogue of London art school output, circa 1988. Others have questioned why, if he is a patron, he does not set up a "lending library".

## Literacy project of less value to poor

CHILDREN TAUGHT reading by methods recommended by the Government made between eight and twelve months more progress than expected, but boys still lagged behind girls, according to a report published yesterday.

The National Foundation for Educational Research says that pupils from the poorest backgrounds made less progress than those from more affluent homes - unlike a literacy scheme in Scotland reported in *The Independent* yesterday which found the best results in the most deprived schools.

The research looked at more than 200 schools in the most deprived areas which have been piloting the new national literacy strategy for two years. There were some big variations. Pupils at an inner-city school in Newcastle notched up 35 progress points on the reading scale compared with 1.5 points for a similar school in Liverpool.

Overall, inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education, who issued their own report, found most pupils were making "very promising progress".

But David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that the importance of phonics - teaching reading by matching letters to sounds - was still being ignored by nearly half of primary schools.

He added: "The secret is to accept what works, whether it upsets ideological convictions or not. The national literacy strategy works. If we can ensure that the methodology is used in classrooms throughout the country we will do a fantastic job."

The strategy, introduced nationally this term, includes a daily literacy hour. It is not compulsory but schools which choose not to use it must prove

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

to inspectors that their results are up to scratch.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said: "We are convinced that the national literacy strategy has brought significant improvements in the quality of teaching. The lack of understanding of phonics in some teachers remains the main obstacle to the success of the literacy hour."

Headteachers who failed to take an active interest in literacy and lack of support from local authority advisers also accounted for poor progress in some schools, he said.

Asked about the report in *The Independent* about research in Scottish schools showing that "synthetic phonics" was more effective than the "analytic phonics" of the national literacy strategy, Mr Woodhead said that the strategy contained some "synthetic phonics".

Tony Blair told a conference on phonics in London: "No teacher sets out to fail a child. We nevertheless have a situation where nearly 30 per cent of 11-year-olds have failed to reach the reading standard expected of their age and half of 11-year-old boys have serious problems with their writing." Successful schools, he added, placed a proper emphasis on "spelling, grammar and, not least, phonics".

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said: "The project, like all pilots, was much better resourced than the actual introduction. Therefore, care must be taken when interpreting the results."

Leading article,  
Review, page 3

## Sainsbury's Cheeses. Give a present with more taste this Christmas.



### MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

PREVIOUS BUG Watches have pointed out how there isn't enough food, money or petrol to cope if everyone suddenly decides to start hoarding things towards the end of December 1999. But we may get some early indications next year of how big the storm clouds will really be when the clocks hit the double-0. Margaret Joachim, Year 2000 co-ordinator at systems company EDS, points to a few key dates, beginning with 1 January 1999.

Some accounting systems operate a "rolling year" system to set renewal dates for insurance premiums or bank loans: they may crash trying to look beyond 31 December 1999. Other dates could also trigger computer failure. April 9 is the 99th day of the year; September 9 would show up as 9/9/99. Programmers (whose fault all this is, if you'd forgotten) often used a clump of 9s to indicate the



end of a file or an invalid record - "like 'don't do this any more'", Joachim explains.

But if some systems crashes do happen early (especially in January), it might be a blessing in disguise. "This will involve accounting, planning and budgeting systems rather than operational executing systems which carry out day-to-day business," says Chris Webster, head of year 2000 services at the Cap Gemini consultancy. "It will give you some experience in spotting the errors and knowing how to deal with them."

CHARLES ARTHUR

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# Prison governors must wear uniform

FOR THE first time in their century-old history, prison governors are to be made to dress in uniform to reduce simmering jealousies among jail staff.

Richard Tilt, the director general of the Prison Service, believes that making all of the 12,000 non-uniformed prison staff dress in official garb will help to heal rifts between them and prison officers.

But the move was promptly criticised by the governors,

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

who said they would rather wear suits, and by prison reformers who feared it would put jails on a more military footing.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "One of the things that we have got away from is the idea that the Prison Service is some sort of military operation and any form of uniform which smacked

of the paramilitary would be an extremely retrograde step."

But, writing in *Prison Service News*, Mr Tilt said he had gradually come round to the idea of every prison employee wearing uniform.

He said: "Ten years ago if someone had asked me, I would have said no I do not want to extend the use of uniform. I would now say that the benefits of having everybody in uniform would outweigh the disadvantages

and I would be in favour of a fully uniformed service."

Prison officers have recently been resentful of what they see as a lack of support from governors over their claims for better pay and conditions.

Mr Tilt said: "I think we continue at establishment level to have stupid arguments and disputes between different 'classes' of staff. It causes a lot of anguish and wastes a lot of effort, so putting everyone in

uniform must be quite helpful."

The proposals could affect prison psychologists, administration staff and teachers as well as governors.

The first prison governors were established in the 1890s. They have never worn a uniform, although the 1995 report into jail security by General Sir John Learmont suggested that a fully-uniformed service might help to prevent a repeat of the Whitemoor and

Parkhurst break-outs. The idea has so far been resisted, with the 1,050 governors in England and Wales preferring a business look, epitomised by actor Janet McTeer in Lynda La Plante's television drama, *The Governor*.

David Roddan, general secretary of the Prison Governors' Association, said: "I think that any governor who needs a uniform in order to let people know their rank isn't doing

their job properly. They should be out and about in the prisons, well-known by staff and prisoners alike."

At Glen Parva young offenders' institution, reaction to the proposals was mixed. One uniformed officer said it was a good idea, claiming that some governors walked the landings in "jeans and t-shirts".

But Rob Watts, who works in the supply office, said: "I am definitely against a quasi-military

uniform such as the police or army wear."

Jackie Burrows, a psychology assistant, said: "If I had to wear a uniform I would lose some of the advantages I have over uniformed staff in that the prisoners would be less likely to talk to me. It wouldn't matter what the uniform looked like, it would still be a uniform and I think I would lose the relationship I have with a lot of the prisoners."

## Warfare may be bad for your health

THE APPEAL of charging around a muddy field in leather breeches, waving an ancient musket, may not be immediately apparent. But 25,000 grown-ups spend their weekends doing just that, re-enacting the bloodiest confrontations in military history.

The problem is that some people get carried away in the heat of battle, and 17th-century weapons can be lethal if handled carelessly. One moment you're loading gunpowder into a cannon; the next, one of your fingers has been blown off.

Yesterday, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) turned its attention to this hazard and issued a booklet of guidelines for the 80 historical societies that have sprung up around Britain. It gives advice on issues such as maintaining weapons, storing explosives and keeping crowds at a safe distance.

The HSE wants to instil a sense of responsibility in the growing numbers of people who enjoy playing soldiers in their free time. But to prove that it is not a killjoy, it arranged for a Napoleonic cannon to be fired in the background as the booklet was launched.

The setting was Hoghton Hall, in Lancashire, a rallying point for Cavaliers at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642. Speaking in the house's 600-

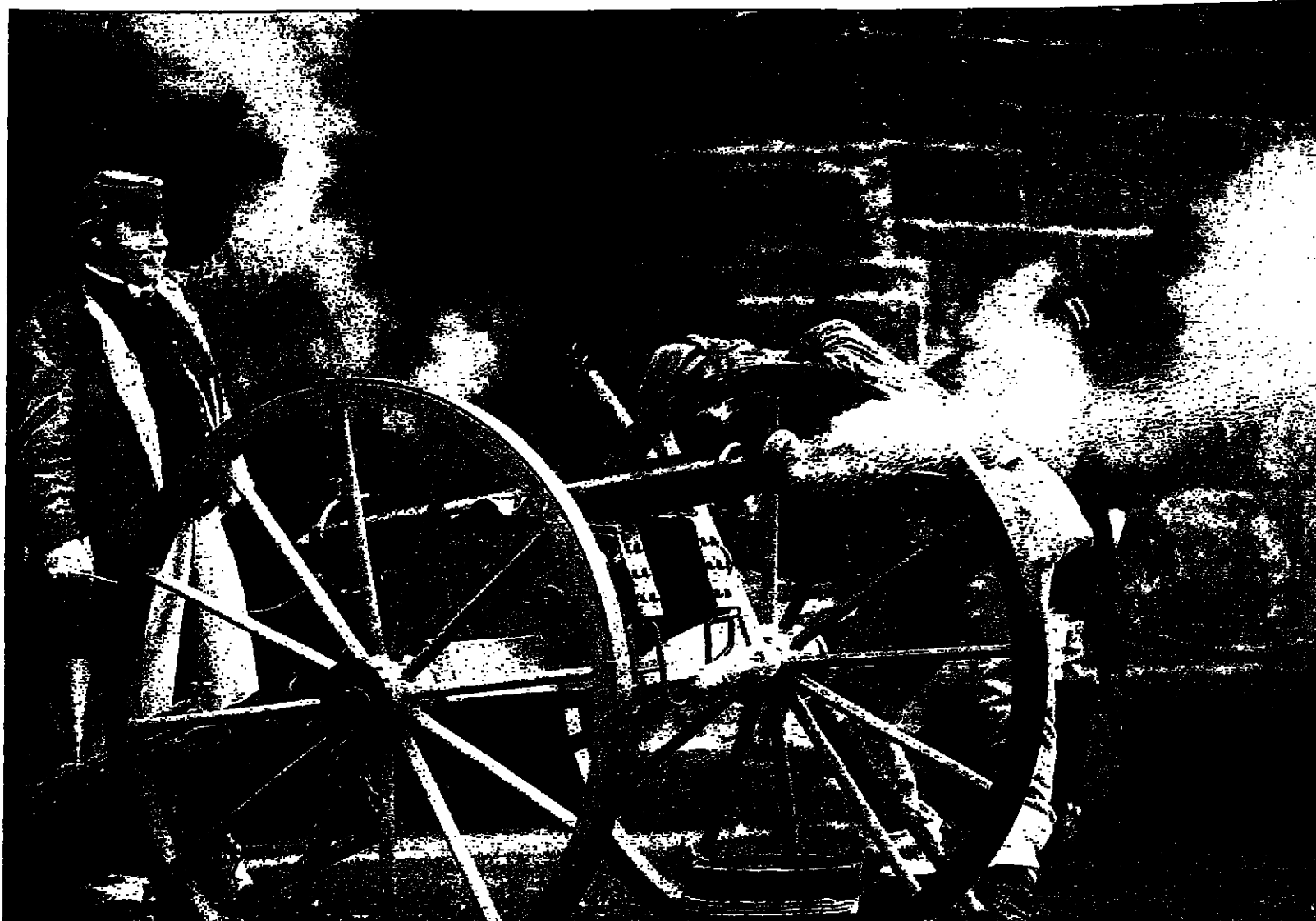
BY KATHY MARES

year-old baronial hall, Alan Duckworth, the HSE's chief inspector of explosives, warned that the re-enactment of history could be a dangerous activity. He gave a blood-curdling list of the kind of accidents that can happen. Earlier this year, for instance, a woman in Yorkshire had part of her hand blown off as a cannon that she was preparing to fire discharged itself prematurely.

In 1996 several members of the public watching a display in Humberside were taken to hospital after an artillery piece was fired at excessively close range. The same year a spectator in Yorkshire was injured after a cannon's powderkeg exploded.

The guidelines were welcomed by long-established groups such as the English Civil War Society and the Napoleonic War Society. They say their safety standards are high and suggest that some of the newer organisations may be less meticulous.

Michael Lawson, of the American Civil War Society, described the booklet as a "highway code" for battlefield enthusiasts. According to the HSE, the danger lies not so much with the replica cannon, muskets, pikes and pistols that



American Civil War Society members outside Hoghton Hall, Lancashire, at the launch of the HSE safety guide for historical societies Bob Collier

are used to re-enact such famous conflicts as the Battle of Naseby, although the weapons themselves can be temperamental. "It's the gunpowder that is the main problem," said a spokeswoman. "You get someone loading a musket, they ram the stuff in, it misfires and then

goes off in their face. "These people are so intent on reproducing the battle in the most authentic detail that sometimes they lose all rational thought processes. It is then that accidents will happen."

The societies say their members often sustain bruises dur-

ing battles and occasionally broken bones. Other, more unusual, mishaps occur too. A few years ago a detachment of pikemen severed overhead cables and cut off the electricity to the Dorset town of Sturminster Newton.

One wonders what William

Annetts would have made of the HSE booklet.

Mr Annetts, a colonel-in-chief of the Sealed Knot Society, one of the main Civil War groups, suffered a variety of "war wounds" during his many years of service.

On one occasion, it took a

nurse 11 weeks to extract a four-inch pellet from his thigh after he shot himself in the leg at a "battle" in Jersey.

When Mr Annetts died earlier this year his ashes were, in accordance with his final wishes, discharged to the winds from a 17th-century cannon.

## Pupil, 16, sues store for unfair dismissal

BY CATHY COMERFORD

A SIXTH FORMER who made legal history yesterday as the youngest person to take a company to an industrial tribunal is claiming she suffered racial discrimination by the supermarket chain, Sainsbury's.

Celeste Shirley, a 16-year-old A-level student at Richmond College in London, was sacked in July from her part-time job at the chain's Chiswick store. She was accused of credit card fraud following eight queries by customers over transactions made on her till. Ms Shirley, from Acton in west London, who is black, is claiming discrimination and wrongful dismissal.

The tribunal in central London was yesterday told by Ms Shirley's counsel, Gazi Khan, that white staff under similar suspicion were not disciplined.

Jason Galbraith, for Sainsbury's, said the suggestion was "outrageous" and added: "That simply is not the case."

Mr Khan said: "There is a strong comparison in the action taken against white people and black employees." Tribunal chairman Michael Rabin asked whether he truly meant what he said. "White people are at liberty to defraud and steal from Sainsbury's because they will not take action - is that what you are suggesting?" he asked. "That is quite an extraordinary statement."

The tribunal was adjourned until April.

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# Guest list row spoils Paris celebrations

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

HUMAN RIGHTS may be universal but politics are endless. France is putting on a big effort this week to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights, signed in Paris a half-century ago this Thursday. It has also been caught out trying to appease some of the most stubborn violators of the declaration.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be lunching at the Elysée Palace today. Was he on President Jacques Chirac's original list of guests? The French press and sources close to the Tibetan political and spiritual leader say that he was not, because Paris did not want to upset China.

The Elysée, choosing its words carefully, insists the Dalai Lama was invited to the Pres-



Bruce Springsteen and Peter Dinklage will rock for rights

ident's lunch for Nobel prize-winners without specifying when the invitation was issued. The suspicion is that the letter was sent out only after the snub was noticed by the press and human-rights groups, prompting other Nobel laureates to threaten to boycott the lunch.

The kerfuffle illustrates the delicate approach - at once demonstrative and secretive -

chosen by France to celebrate the anniversary. There will be an official ceremony on Thursday at the Palais de Chaillot, the scene of the signing of the declaration 50 years ago. The names of the foreign guests and even the speakers for the ceremony have been kept private, to avoid advance embarrassment or reprisals. Some celebrated rights activists, who had

been promised they could attend, had still not received their invitations yesterday.

The cautious, official French celebration has been jarred by the noisier approach of a consortium of human-rights groups, which is holding a two-day conference in the same building, starting today. This so-called "états généraux", or parliament of human rights, will be attended by 300 of the most militant defenders of rights around the world, including the Dalai Lama, the Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng and the American civil rights activist, Angela Davis. The meeting will issue a new Paris Declaration, calling on governments, international bodies and individuals to mobilise to defend the 1948 declaration.

There will also be a human-rights rock concert at the Bercy Stadium on Thursday night, sponsored by Amnesty Inter-

national and the Body Shop. Performers will include Radiohead, Tracy Chapman, Peter Dinklage and Asian Dub Foundation. The American rock superstar, Bruce Springsteen, will also be in the line-up.

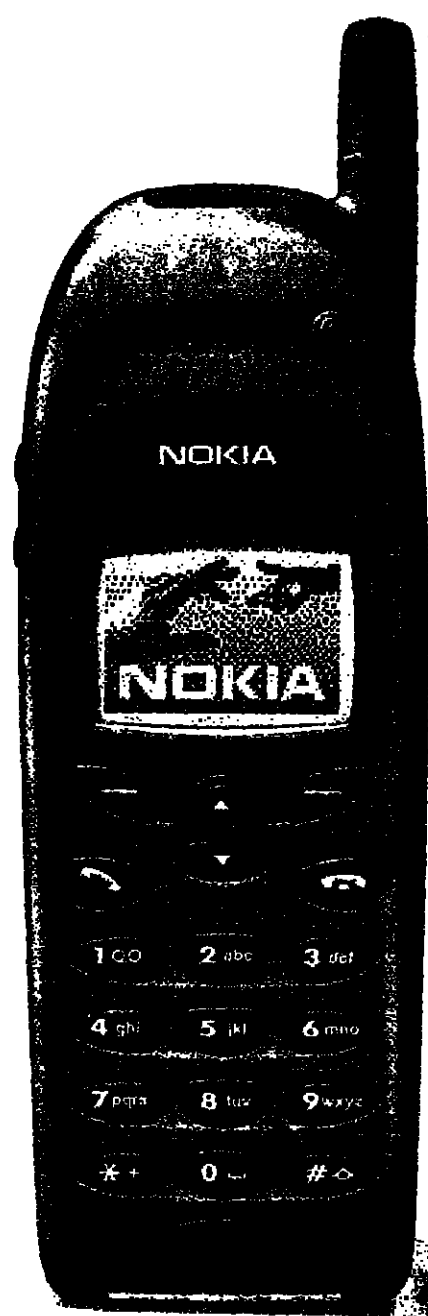
The official programme was opened at the headquarters of Unesco, the UN's educational and cultural wing, in Paris yesterday, with speeches by President Chirac and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson.

Mr Chirac used his speech to call on the UN to present a draft charter of rules governing global trade, preventing the exploitation of labour and the erosion of national cultures. He called on the UN secretary-general to present such a "Globalisation Agenda" in 2000, setting out minimum workers' rights, as well as new efforts to combat international crime.



Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel (right) with the Dalai Lama yesterday Reuters

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## EU to survey rights abuses

SETTING ASIDE quarrels, real or imagined, over European Union tax policy, Britain and Germany yesterday launched a new initiative designed to beef up the EU's presence in the international human rights arena.

In a move to mark this week's 50th anniversary of the signature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and his German opposite number, Joschka Fischer, are calling on Brussels to publish an annual report on the human rights performance of non-member nations. Assuming a go-ahead from the Vienna summit later this week, the first such report could appear next June, at the end of Bonn's six-month presidency of the EU.

According to British officials, the initiative stems from "an obvious meeting of minds" between the two foreign ministers on human rights, dating back to their first meeting last October. But it serves some more down-to-earth political purposes too.

First and foremost, it puts a

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

little flesh on the trumpeted new relationship between the two countries, and the centre-left, third-way seeking governments now in power in both London and Bonn. What price a spot of local difficulty over Oskar Lafontaine, in other words, compared to a shared concern with human rights?

In fact the EU's record on the issue, in the view of many human-rights groups, has been spotty, especially in areas such as Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Its recent decision to drop its traditional resolution on the state of human rights in China has also been criticised as letting China off the hook.

The Anglo-German approach also fits in with New Labour's aspirations to an "ethical" foreign policy. The acid test, however, may come on Friday with the deadline for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to rule on General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator who faces extradition to Spain to face trial for human rights abuses.

### THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

*'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.*



#### Article 27

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

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# Cook 'hypocrisy' attack over duty-free

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, was accused of hypocrisy yesterday for advocating the cause of duty-free shopping. The argument raged as Germany pressed its demands for cuts to Britain's European Union budget rebate on grounds of fairness.

Mr Cook yesterday asked European colleagues to consider postponing the June 1999 abolition date for duty free on the basis of the effects on jobs

British government was invoking the principle of unanimity to veto any further EU tax harmonisation. Mr Monti said finance ministers had unanimously agreed to scrap duty free. He reminded them of the Government's strong adherence to the principle of unanimity on tax and said it would also take a unanimous decision to overturn the 1991 agreement. The commission's view is that duty free will become

redundant as differences in excise tax are ironed out. But Mr Cook warned that pressing on with abolition would be unpopular and damage the British public perception of Europe. "This is a very important issue for the British public," he said. Accusing some governments of bowing to pressure from lobbyists, Mr Monti said the EU would lose credibility if it succumbed to pressure from a

highly subsidised industry which had been given seven years to prepare for abolition. "This will be the last Christmas when many hundreds of millions of Europeans unknowingly pay part of their taxes to subsidise duty-free outlets," he said. Germany's new Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder - from a constituency that benefits from North Sea ferry links - has emerged as the most powerful supporter of duty free. The

first inkling that Britain was considering a late U-turn came last week when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, indicated support for German calls for a delay in abolition at the same time as threatening to veto any further EU tax harmonisation. Then Tony Blair announced after an Anglo-French summit on Friday that he would seek a reprieve for duty free at the Vienna summit of EU heads of government later this week.

Germany, meanwhile, has increased pressure on Britain, demanding cuts to its budget rebate. Bonn released figures yesterday suggesting Germany would save around £700m a year if the rebate were abolished. As foreign ministers met in Brussels, Gunther Verheugen, Germany's minister for Europe, said all funding issues, including the average £2bn annual British rebate, should be on the table. Germany is the EU's biggest

net contributor and pays around 30 billion marks (£7.17bn) more per year than it gets back in subsidies. Britain is also a net contributor, losing out about £2.5-3bn a year. The rebate was negotiated in 1984 when the United Kingdom was one of the poorest countries, yet one of the three biggest net contributors. Four countries - Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden - now say they are worse off than Britain was in 1984.

## West Bank erupts ahead of Clinton visit

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

AT LEAST 50 Palestinians were injured in battles with Israeli soldiers yesterday as they demonstrated for the release of 2,400 Palestinian prisoners still held by Israel.

In one incident at Abu Dhis on the outskirts of Jerusalem, a Palestinian was shot in the head when two armed Israelis in a car were attacked by the stone-throwers.

Violent demonstrations took place throughout the West Bank in some of the worst rioting for two years.

In Hebron, Israeli soldiers fired plastic coated steel bullets at Palestinians throwing stones at them, wounding 13. Two soldiers were also injured. Riots also took place near the Palestinian towns of Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem.

Israel accuses Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, of fomenting the clashes, but the scale of the fighting indicates that the campaign to get the prisoners released has struck a popular nerve. Palestinian prisoners have gone on hunger strike in the main prisons and have been joined by relatives and friends on the outside.

Palestinian anger over the prisoner issue has boiled over ever since Israel released 150 criminals and only 100 security prisoners under the terms of the agreement brokered by President Bill Clinton at Wye in Maryland. Israel says it never agreed to release any more.

The growing violence is casting a shadow over the visit of President Clinton, who arrives in Israel next Saturday and is



An Israeli turning his submachine gun on stone-throwing Palestinian rioters at Abu Dhis, near Jerusalem, yesterday

due to also visit Palestinian-ruled Gaza and Bethlehem. Members of the Israeli cabinet are expressing their opposition to his trip, as it will appear to grant *de facto* recognition to a Palestinian state.

There is also growing tension between the US and Israel over the decision by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to suspend the implementation of the Wye Agreement. The US wants its 13-week timetable for implementation to be fulfilled on time. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said in

Washington yesterday: "I spoke to Chairman Arafat about living up to security obligations and I have spoken to the Israeli foreign minister [Ariel Sharon] about the importance of Israel fulfilling its obligations." In parliament Mr Netanyahu was last night fighting to win a

vote which might topple his government. His own cabinet and members of his right wing coalition are deeply divided by the Wye deal, with many ministers wanting to drop the agreement. Mr Netanyahu said yesterday: "If they want the government to fall, let it fall."

Amid scenes of confusion in the Knesset, Michael Eitan, a supporter of Mr Netanyahu, filibustered for two hours while the Prime Minister searched frantically for support. He could fall by a no-confidence vote or, a slower process, as the result of a bill to dissolve the Knesset.

## EU food aid 'for Russian black market'

BY STEPHEN CASTLE

HUNDREDS OF millions of pounds of European Union food aid to Russia may be diverted to the black market or re-exported to other countries, according to a paper compiled by Britain and four other European governments.

The document is the most formal criticism of the European Commission's £330m programme and underlines growing alarm that the aid will be swallowed up in Russia's chaotic distribution system.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday raised British concerns at a meeting of European foreign ministers in Brussels where doubts were also voiced by Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister.

Many diplomats believe that medicines and drugs are higher priorities for Russia, but the food aid programme is backed by EU farm ministers anxious to dispose of surpluses. Agricultural exports have been hard hit by Russia's economic crisis.

The paper, agreed by Britain, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and Denmark, demands independent monitoring of food distribution, noting that the Commission wants the food to be distributed by Russian state companies.

"The Commission surely does have a responsibility to ensure monitoring of the distribution," the paper says, adding: "There is a risk that, without adequate controls, the food donated will be sold on the black market or will even be re-exported to other countries."

The document calls for a "third party" to monitor distribution, with different organisations tendering for the job. It argues: "Since the Commission will be obliged in any case to publish an open tender for the transport of the food aid to Russia, a tender for supply-chain monitoring would not create any significant delay."

The Commission argues that it has sought extensive guarantees from the Russian government about the fate of the aid, and of any cash generated by its sale.

But yesterday Glenys Kinnock, a member of the European Parliament's development committee, said: "We need to be sure that the food aid is properly monitored and that there are proper controls. As I see it now, these controls are not in place."

Underlying the governments' concern is the belief that Russia's problems are caused not by a shortage of food but by poor distribution. There are also worries that the influx of food aid will distort the agricultural market in Russia.

## Ireland tiptoes back towards the Commonwealth fold

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

ON paper, the circumstances have never looked more propitious. The Commonwealth, which Ireland left upon becoming a republic in 1949 had only eight members, essentially India, Pakistan and the old white dominions, with Britain very much the mother country and partner.

By contrast, 54 countries belong to today's Commonwealth. Of these 33 are republics, and only 15 recognise the Queen as their head of state. The organisation is starting to stretch beyond the former empire. Mozambique, once a Portuguese colony, is a mem-

ber, while the Palestinians, Rwanda and Yemen have applied to join. These applications are on hold. Ireland, however, is regarded as a prime catch, and has been informally told it would be admitted virtually immediately, should it ask to join.

Huge sensitivities are involved. After the bloody struggle for independence, many Irish nationalists will instinctively oppose anything with even the faintest hint of a return to the imperial fold that the country fought so bitterly to leave. However keen Chief Anyaoku is to enlist Ireland, the process will require both tact and time.

But as Mr Ahern acknowledged, the Commonwealth "is a very different thing now than it was 50 years ago". Even more important, relations between Britain and Ireland have been transformed with the peace deal in the North. Last month Tony Blair became the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish Parliament, and a groundbreaking visit by the Queen is being planned.

An Irish return could thus be seen as setting the seal on reconciliation. Moreover, in the event of a future reunification of Ireland, membership of the Commonwealth could help reassure Ulster Unionists that they will not be severing every link with the British crown.

ability to persuade the two natural antagonists of the labour market that working together was in their best interest. Employers' organisations and the trade unions are being urged to make sweeping concessions. In theory, an alliance for jobs could succeed, if the unions agreed to a reduction in the cost of German labour - among the highest in the world - in return for an undertaking by the employers that they will start hiring extra staff.

In practice, though, the employers' organisations are in no position to dictate to companies, such as Siemens, whom they should recruit. Nor are union bosses able to enforce a pay-cut across the board, even if they wanted to. Similar talks two years ago broke up in failure and triggered a wave of nationwide strikes.

Yesterday, the unions asked for curbs on overtime, which in their view would force companies to take on extra staff.

With four million Germans on the dole, the Social Democrats need quick results. Since the proposed tax reforms are not expected to make a dent in unemployment, the government is pinning its hopes on its

German drive on job creation

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

## German drive on job creation

SEEKING TO recreate the consensus politics of a bygone era, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder yesterday brought German business leaders and trade unionists together for the first of a series of meetings intended to forge a common programme to fight mass unemployment.

"I am optimistic that we will be able to make step-by-step progress," Mr Schröder said after the session. Employers' representatives, however, seemed in less convivial mood, complaining of the high taxes that cripple enterprise, and the rising cost of the welfare state.

The idea of an "Alliance for Jobs" is one of the central themes of the new centre-left government. It was mass unemployment that brought down Helmut Kohl, and it is this issue that may undo Mr Schröder's administration.

With four million Germans on the dole, the Social Democrats need quick results. Since the proposed tax reforms are not expected to make a dent in unemployment, the government is pinning its hopes on its

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### IN BRIEF

#### Yeltsin sacks his top aides

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin roused himself from his sick-bed for three hours yesterday, fired four top aides, then returned to hospital where he is recuperating from pneumonia, the Kremlin said. The sacked men, the presidential chief of staff Valentin Yumashev and three of his deputies, included officials who had commented on Mr Yeltsin's health.

#### Chavez denies dictatorship plans

HUGO CHAVEZ, the president-elect of Venezuela, denied yesterday he planned to install a fascist regime or a "Cuban-style dictatorship". The 44-year-old former paratrooper was speaking at his first news conference after Sunday's election, when he gained 56.2 per cent of the vote. Henrique Salas had 39.7 per cent of the vote.

#### World's oldest primate fossil

FRENCH RESEARCHERS, led by Jean Jacques Jaeger from Montpellier University, confirmed that the fossilised remains of a primate found last month in central Burma are about 40 million years old which, they say, makes them the oldest in the world.

#### Le Pen losing hold on far right

IN THE clearest sign yet that Jean-Marie Le Pen may be losing his grip on France's far-right National Front party, which he has led for a quarter-century, one of his loyalists defied him yesterday, calling for an urgent national meeting to prevent the party's "explosion".

#### Too much sex may endanger bird

TOO MUCH sex may lead a rare New Zealand bird, the Hiihi, to extinction, a researcher warned. There was a possible link between the Hiihi's aggressive mating behaviour and exposure to a fungal disease, said Isabel Castro, who was hired to find out why the birds were dying.



# Impeachment vote 'now unavoidable'

AFTER VIRTUALLY ignoring the deliberations of the House of Representatives judiciary committee for the best part of a month, lawyers for President Bill Clinton are heading to Capitol Hill to head off the prospect of articles of impeachment being put to the vote by the weekend.

The lawyers will be defending the President in two sessions, today and tomorrow, each of which is scheduled to run from 9am until midnight.

The appearance of the lawyers, who are expected to call as many as a dozen witnesses in Mr Clinton's defence, illustrates a sharp change of mood in the White House from near-indifference to near-panic, as the prospect of a House vote on impeachment becomes more difficult to avoid, or delay.

Capitol Hill and lobbyists' offices across Washington were abuzz with activity yesterday, as politicians and pundits tried to gauge President Clinton's chances of avoiding a trial by the Senate, the next, and final, stage of the impeachment process. With alternative routes - a vote of censure, fine or reprimand - progressively losing favour, the full House of Representatives could vote on an all-or-nothing scenario: to forward one or more articles of

By MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

impeachment to the Senate or to let Mr Clinton off.

The articles - equivalent to formal charges - under discussion by the House judiciary committee include perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power. The perjury accusation relates to Mr Clinton's denials in the civil sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones (now settled) and in a subsequent grand jury investigation, that he had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. This is thought the most likely charge to be forwarded to the Senate.

The obstruction of justice charge concerns the accusation that Mr Clinton ensured that Ms Lewinsky and his personal secretary, Betty Currie, lied to protect him, and the abuse of power charge relates to his use of White House and government officials to defend him.

However, the balance of political advantage has perceptibly shifted from the Democrats to the Republicans, as the psychological effect of last month's Congressional elections results has worn off.

A vote for impeachment in the House would have the desired effect for the Republicans.

It would satisfy the call of their conservative constituents for punishment, without the risk that Mr Clinton would be removed from power. The Republican majority in the Senate is nothing like sufficient to produce the necessary two-thirds majority to remove the President from office.

The White House, however, would greatly prefer that proceedings were halted before they reached that stage.

The first vote, in the House judiciary committee, probably later this week, is safely predicted to go along party lines. The second, in the full House, is estimated at 50-60. This is the vote that the White House is so keen to influence.

President Clinton has adopted the approach of business as usual. He is due to preside over a symposium on the US state pension system at the White House - a subject of consuming interest to Americans who fear that state coffers could run dry before they retire.

He will also attend a memorial service for Vice-President Al Gore's father, who died at the weekend. On Saturday he leaves for a three day visit to Israel and Gaza, where he will become the first US leader to address the Palestinian assembly.



Ahead of the vote, Hillary and Bill Clinton relax at the White House with Bill Cosby (left), Andre Previn, and Shirley Temple Black

AP

## OFFER OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING

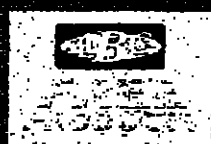
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## Convict offers daughter his second kidney

A TEENAGE girl lies in hospital in San Francisco, her life threatened by kidney failure. But rescue is at hand, thanks to a devoted father who is willing to become a donor and offer his daughter a fresh chance of health. Except there is a problem - he has done this for her once already.

If David Patterson, 38, is allowed by doctors to give his second kidney to his daughter, Renada Daniel Patterson, 18, as he is proposing, he will be left with no kidney. He gave his first to her in 1996.

The consequences of his offer are not hard to divine. Mr Patterson would be destined to spend the rest of life receiving painful treatment and purifying his blood through dialysis. He would be opening himself up to ill health and possible premature death.

There is something else. Mr Patterson is serving a 13-year prison sentence in a state prison in Sacramento, California, for robbery and drugs convictions. This means the cost of dialysis - roughly \$40,000 a year - would have to be met by the government and, by extension, the taxpayer.

The dilemma is an acute one that has been referred to a bio-ethics panel at the University of California in San Francisco. It would be the doctors at the University Hospital, where Renada is receiving dialysis three times a week, who would be expected to conduct the transplant operation.

By DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

The question is this - by removing Mr Patterson's remaining kidney, would the surgeons be violating their professional vows never to do harm to a patient?

Renada received her first transplanted kidney 11 years ago. It was quickly rejected, however, and for seven years she led a restricted life of regular dialysis, unable to attend school or enjoy anything close to the life of a normal child.

Renada's luck changed, however, when, out of the blue, her father telephoned her from prison. Even though he had abandoned Renada and her mother, Vickie Daniels, when she was a baby, he offered her one of his healthy kidneys for a transplant. The operation was successfully completed in March 1996.

Renada was checked back into the hospital a week ago, however. Unbeknown to her mother, she had stopped taking the drugs that guard against the rejection by the body of donated organs. It was clear another transplant would be necessary.

Ms Daniels is angry there should be any debate about taking Mr Patterson's second kidney. "They told us this would be unethical," she said.

"We believe it's not about ethics. These are family members making decisions about the future of their child."



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# Aborigines seek Olympics boycott

A SENIOR Aboriginal adviser to the Sydney Olympics has called for an international boycott of the event in protest at what he calls the worsening racist treatment of his people.

Charles Perkins, the only indigenous member of the committee responsible for winning the 2000 Games for Sydney, issued the appeal as activists stepped up efforts to take their protests on to a world stage. Their fear is that a generation of progress for Aborigines appears to be going into reverse.

The final straw for Mr Perkins came last week as the chair of Sydney's Olympic bid, Rod McGeoch, resigned from the board of the Olympic organising committee. Members of the Aboriginal advisory body lobbied publicly for their chairperson, Lowitja O'Donoghue, to become the only black member of the committee. Instead, the

BY JAKE LYNCH  
in Sydney

vacancy went to Marjorie Jackson, a former sprinter. She comes from the ruling Labour Party's most marginal seat in the forthcoming New South Wales state elections.

Mr Perkins said that health facilities for Aborigines were "atrocious", and housing conditions "terrible". His people, he added, were dying on average 20 years earlier than white Australians. "Unless those things change before the Olympics, then I would suggest to the European people, especially the British people, don't bother coming over," he said. "They would be dancing on our graves."

Mr Perkins complained that the Olympic authorities had appropriated Aboriginal symbols, using the boomerang for the Games' logo and launching

the torch relay from the Aborigines' most sacred site, Uluru. "They've stolen something and they're abusing it on the international scene," he said.

He recalled a news conference he had given during the International Olympic Committee meeting five years ago in Monte Carlo, when Sydney won the Games. His belief that the Olympics would help bring Australia's races together had been instrumental, he believed, in securing Sydney's victory.

Since then, he said, Aboriginal people had been frozen out. "The route for the torch - we would like to have had an input into that, but when we did make recommendations they were ignored," he said. "We wanted them [the events] to go to big Aboriginal communities, where there were full facilities in terms of airstrips, but they didn't want that to happen."

A spokesman for the organising committee, Milton Cockburn, said he was confident there would not be a boycott because "all the Aboriginal athletes in Australia have urged that there won't be a boycott."

"They have pointed out that for some of them this will be their only opportunity to participate in an Olympic Games."

But in targeting the overseas markets, Aborigine leaders may be striking at Australia's most vulnerable point. With a population of 18 million, Australia has the smallest population of any country to stage the games in modern times. With the biggest-ever Olympic stadium, able to seat 110,000, now nearing completion, organisers need to sell seven million tickets to remain in budget. It is estimated that about three million of those will need to be sold to overseas visitors.



The boomerang sculpture for the Sydney 2000 games, which some Aborigines object to as 'appropriation' PA

## Lacking all the right connections

STREET LIFE  
SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

THERE ARE many dreaded words in Russian, but among the most feared are the oh-so-innocent-sounding "in connection with". Whenever you see a notice start in this way, you know to expect some bureaucratic excuse and you can work out for yourself how you are about to be inconvenienced.

"In connection with works on the bridge": this means that traffic on the only highway between Moscow and St Petersburg will be reduced to a single lane and you will experience mile-long tailbacks for the next two years.

"In connection with repairs to the pipes": the hot water in your apartment is going to be switched off indefinitely and you will have to boil pans of water to wash up or have a bath.

The "in connection with" notices went up in Samotechny Lane last week. The basement had been chemically treated for cockroaches, and so we could expect waves of cockroaches and possibly even mice and rats seeking asylum in our apartments. Later we had a visit from a woman dressed in battle fatigues and a purple chiffon headscarf, who offered us a cocaine-like powder to sprinkle round the skirting boards. "Deadly to cockroaches, won't harm your pets," she said. My black cat rolled in it and turned white.

"In connection with" something else, we also lost our telephone links. This was a blow, as we matter incessantly, taking advantage of one of the happy vestiges of the Soviet system, free telephone calls within Moscow. Thus, the concept of street life extends to include not only neighbours but also friends on the other side of the city. Suddenly we had to sit in icy trolley buses and actually visit each other if we wanted to exchange tales of misery.

In the far-flung suburb of Khimki, which belongs spiritually to Samotechny Lane, they were having power cuts "in connection with" something or other. The cheerful ladies in the local bakery were selling loaves by candlelight.

All this, of course, was trivial compared with the suffering of people in Vladivostok, in the far east. If there is one thing worse than an "in connection with" notice, it is no notice at all, just unexplained breakdown. This means that all responsibility for the problem has been abandoned.

The television showed pictures of desperate people, left for days in the depth of winter without any heating in their homes. Some were bearing the

ordeal patiently, like the woman, bundled up in jumpers, who showed a reporter her goldfish, belly-up in cold water. She had put jumpers round the bowl but they had not helped. The implication was that jumpers would not save her either. You could see her breath as she talked inside the flat, where the temperature was zero.

Others, who had gone outside because it was warmer around the street bonfires than inside their refrigerated homes, were close to rioting. "We are being treated like cattle," cried one woman. Various factors, from unpaid bills to neglected maintenance work, appeared to be behind the problem. Yet, the homes of senior officials were warm. The crowd rocked one of the officials' limousines and tried to overturn it. It was the nearest I have seen to Russians losing their legendary patience.

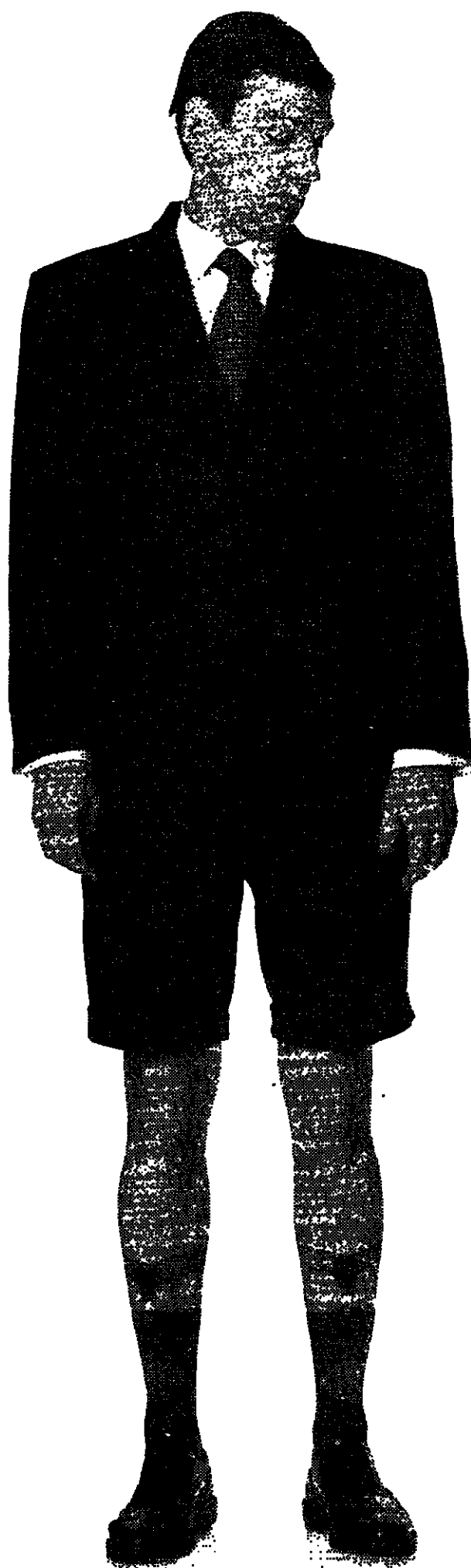
"In connection with" the near total collapse of the country, there is a possibility of imminent revolution. As far as utilities are concerned, the mess we are in now is because of the failure of a quiet revolution planned by ousted reformers. We are paying for years of dependence on the nanny state, which subsidised us on the one hand (hence the ridiculously low telephone, gas and electricity bills) while on the other, denied us choice and responsibility.

The reformers wanted to change all that but never got round to it. Now the state is verging on bankruptcy and its services are increasingly patchy.

Ironically, while most people were freezing, one building in Moscow had too much heat last week. "We are wearing T-shirts in here and still we are sweating," said Kirill, who lives in a block once set aside for artists from the Bolshoi Theatre. There are no knobs on Russian radiators. God forbid that individuals should be able to decide for themselves whether they are hot or cold. Such freedom would lead to anarchy, or so the old Soviet planners believed.

"I suspect that Yeltsin keeps the central heating button in his briefcase along with the nuclear button," joked Kirill. But no, only the bureaucrats at the central heating station can decide whether to turn the heat up or down. Officials working in the Kremlin complained that they were shivering and, according to a television report, asked for the heat to be turned up by three degrees.

HELEN WOMACK



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DAVID AARONOVITCH



I cannot tell you why I  
associate John Redwood  
with sado-masochism,  
but I do

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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DDSO8

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# BUSINESS

## Barclays warns on costs and bad debt provisions

BARCLAYS BANK, the high street clearer rocked by the departure of its chief executive Martin Taylor 10 days ago, saw its shares fall 21p to 1,289p yesterday after it warned of sharply higher costs and a rise in bad debt provisioning in the second half.

The bank also confirmed its previous statement - made on the day Mr Taylor's departure was announced - that pre-tax profits would be £1.9bn for the calendar year rather than the £2.25bn City analysts had been forecasting.

The bank did not clarify the reason for the shortfall. However, analysts said the figures

By Andrew Garfield  
Financial Editor

released yesterday implied that Barclays Capital, which in August suffered huge losses in the Russian government bond market, was heading for a £420m loss in the second half, although the precise breakdown will not be known until the final results are published in February.

"Barclays denied that they were issuing a profits warning. But that is what they are leading the market to believe with this statement," said David Townsend, banking analyst at Goldman Sachs. "They are in-

creasingly hemming themselves in with this figure of £1.9bn. If they were to make £2.2bn after all, they might now be sued by any shareholder who saw the earlier statement, assumed they were making a profits warning and sold their shares."

Yesterday's statement came ahead of a round of City analysts' briefings by stopgap chief executive Sir Peter Middleton and Oliver Stocken, the finance director. The briefings are traditionally made ahead of the bank's closed periods during which they are banned from talking to analysts while they finalise results for publication.

Analysts said that, while the

headline figure was not new, the figures underlined the seriousness of the strategic issues Barclays now has to address.

The bank has said that the Barclays Capital division, whose losses were a factor in the boardroom rift which prompted Mr Taylor's departure, is currently under review.

There has been speculation about the future of the division and about the future of Bob Diamond, its chief executive. "The strategy for Barclays Capital appears to have failed, and needs to be revisited urgently," one analyst said.

Analysts also expressed surprise at the news that costs for

the year are expected to have risen by around 5.5 per cent. This, they said, meant £100m would be added to overheads this year.

Barclays said dealing profits had been "significantly impacted" by the losses on Russian government bonds. A large part of the £250m charge announced on 1 September would now be treated as a "dealing loss".

The bank said that on top of the £75m it said it lost in July and August in the corporate bond market, the bank had suffered "difficult market conditions" in September and October. It said losses were partially offset by "good perfor-

mances" in interest-rate derivatives and foreign exchange, and market conditions had improved since then.

Barclays said that Barclays Capital was managing down its weighted risk assets to a level below the £37.9bn in June 1998. Barclays Capital consumes around 35 per cent of regulatory capital - the funds the bank is required by the authorities to set aside to cover risks.

The losses at Barclays Capital have obscured better news emerging elsewhere in the bank's overall performance. Retail consumer lending continues to grow at the rate of 15 per cent a year.

### BRIEFING

#### Bankers Trust chairman gets \$10m

FRANK NEWMAN, the chairman of Bankers Trust which last week agreed to a \$10bn takeover by Germany's Deutsche Bank, is to get \$10m to stay on at the bank after the deal goes ahead next year.

Three other key Bankers Trust executives Yves De Balmann, Mayo Shattuck and Mary Cillo are believed to be sharing a further \$10m between them. Yves de Balmann is expected to be named head of the merged investment banking division within the next few weeks. Mr Shattuck will be co-head and Ms Cillo, head of custody. Deutsche's Edson Mitchell will keep his current job as head of global markets as will Mike Philipp, who heads global equities.

Rolf Breuer, the Deutsche Bank chief executive, told staff through a global video link-up from New York yesterday that the bank was working hard to ensure that the new management structure was put in place as quickly as possible.

#### Minorco sells gold interests



MINORCO, the mining group that is in the process of merging with South Africa's Anglo American, yesterday sold its gold interests to AngloGold, an Anglo subsidiary, for \$550m in cash. The long-awaited deal gives AngloGold control of mines in North and South America and exploration activities on both continents.

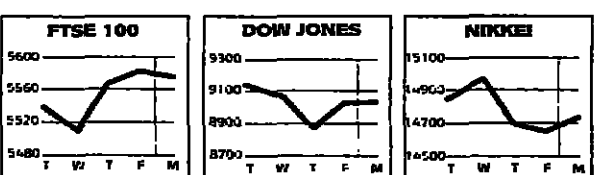
The acquisition follows a competitive auction which was contested by other gold producers. Hank Slack, chief executive of Minorco (pictured), said: "The sale price puts a value on Minorco's assets, which in the past was not reflected in our share price."

#### First Leisure shares up on bid talk

SHARES IN First Leisure, the bingo, nightclubs and ten-pin bowling group chaired by Michael Grade, rose by almost 11 per cent yesterday following reports of a possible £500m hostile bid for the company. Analysts said they expected First Leisure to slim its operations down but that there would be few takers for the low-growth bingo operations.

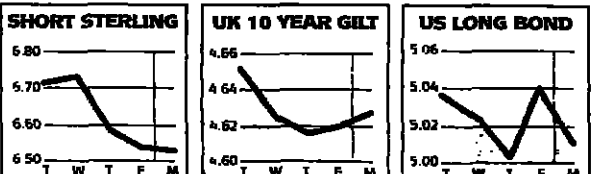
Whitbread and Vardon, two of the companies seen as potential bidders, are not thought to be interested, nor is Nomura, the Japanese bank that has pulled off a string of high profile deals. The shares closed 22p higher at 222.5p valuing the business at £370m.

### STOCK MARKETS



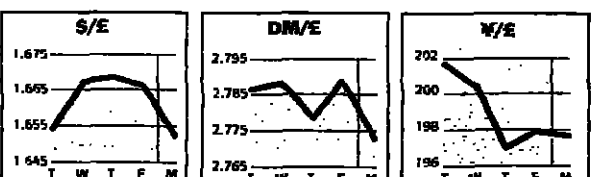
Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5576.70	+5.20	6183.70	4599.20	3.27
FTSE 250	4753.50	+2.80	5270.90	4247.60	4.86
FTSE 350	2641.90	-1.90	2959.00	2210.00	3.60
FTSE All Share	2550.84	-1.59	2886.52	2143.53	3.65
FTSE SmallCap	2019.60	+1.20	2793.00	1834.00	4.16
FTSE Fledgling	1125.00	+2.90	1517.00	1046.00	0.00
FTSE AIM	802.10	+1.10	1146.90	761.30	0.00
FTSE EBLIC 100	931.93	+1.45	1016		
Dow Jones	9019.49	+1.80	9380.00	7400.00	1.66
Nikkei	14723.49	+83.52	17352.00	12787.00	1.00
Hang Seng	10628.82	+465.68	11926.00	6544.00	3.00
Dax	4713.96	-61.27	6217.83	3833.71	1.89

### INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.57	-1.18	6.03	-1.88	4.63	-1.90	4.49	-1.97
US	5.24	-0.67	5.02	-0.98	4.62		5.01	
Japan	0.48	-0.23	0.53	-0.19	1.08	-0.74	1.77	-0.67
Germany	3.42	-0.34	3.27	-0.82	3.92	-1.50	4.78	-1.20

### CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
	at Spn	Change	Yr Ago		at Spn	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6526	-1.09c	1.6451	Sterling	0.6051	+0.39p	0.6078
D-Mark	2.7278	-1.91pf	2.9743	D-Mark	1.6785	+0.05pf	1.7387
Yen	197.84	-40.46	215.94	Yen	119.73	+40.50	130.58
£ Index	99.80	-0.50	104.30	£ Index	106.00	+0.60	106.40

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	9.34	-0.06	17.95	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	295.55	3.00		RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55
Silver (\$)	4.76	-0.02	5.31	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

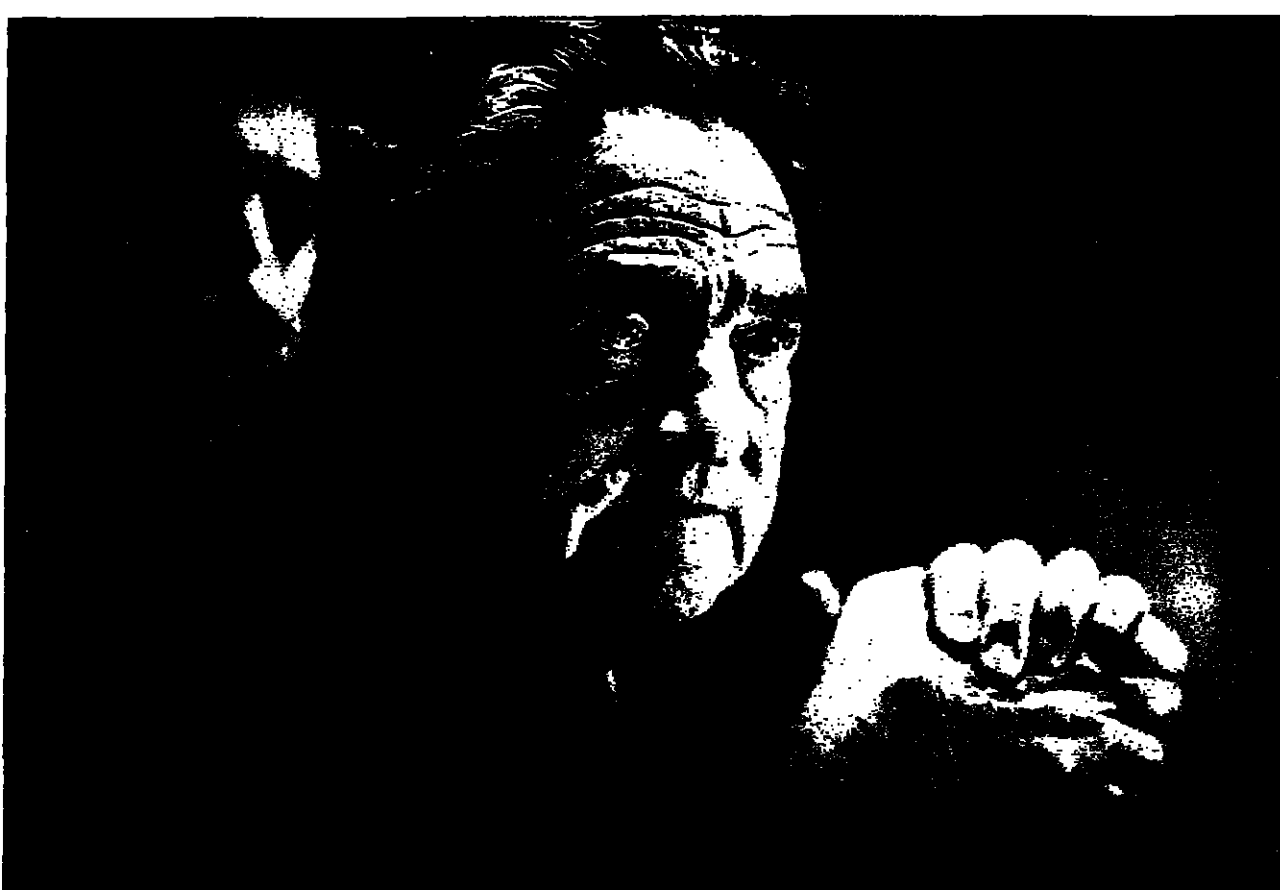
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SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

### TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6047	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.13
Austria (schillings)	19.03	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0499
Belgium (francs)	55.93	New Zealand (\$)	3.0543
Canada (\$)	2.4810	Norway (krone)	12.07
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7996	Portugal (escudos)	275.23
Denmark (krone)	10.36	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0500
Finland (markka)	8.2558	Singapore (\$)	2.6296
France (francs)	9.0868	Spain (pesetas)	229.92
Germany (marks)	2.7189	South Africa (rands)	9.4488
Greece (drachma)	456.72	Sweden (krone)	13.19
Hong Kong (\$)	12.47	Switzerland (francs)	2.2293
Ireland (pounds)	1.0887	Thailand (bahts)	54.80
India (rupees)	63.53	Turkey (liras)	485871
Israel (shekels)	6.4281	USA (\$)	1.6218
Italy (lira)	2694		
Japan (yen)	193.58		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0499		
Malta (lira)	0.6067		

Rates for indication purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook



George Soros yesterday: 'The shock is probably behind us ... I did not anticipate the extent of the recovery' Tom Pilston

## Soros says the crisis is over but bear market will persist

GEORGE SOROS, the superstar financier and pessimist about the financial markets in which he made his fortune, said yesterday he thought the global crisis was over.

But he warned that there would be after-shocks and further weakness in the markets. "I still think we are in a bear market," Mr Soros said at the London launch of his new book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*.

"The shock is probably behind us; it is the after-effects that are going to affect markets and economies," he said, adding that prospects look much brighter now than two months ago. "The financial markets have staged a remarkable re-

By Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

covery. I did not anticipate the extent of the recovery."

Indeed, Mr Soros started his presentation with great modesty, stating: "I'm very often wrong." When asked to justify his description on the book cover as "an authentic financial genius" by predicting where the FTSE 100 index would be at the end of next year, he joked: "I know the number exactly, but I'm not at liberty to disclose it."

However, he did not entirely disappoint those looking for out-and-out pessimism. Mr Soros, reputed to have made £1bn forcing sterling out of the European

Exchange Rate Mechanism in September 1992, warned that the pound would be vulnerable to speculation if the UK stayed out of the euro. He added that the UK would also face risks if it stayed out.

Mr Soros reserved his greatest bearishness for the state of the world economy, arguing that there are strong deflationary pressures caused by overproduction. For the core stockmarkets that meant severe pressure on profit margins. While lower interest rates were welcome, it might not be enough to prevent a downturn, he said.

The compelling interest of his new book is, of course, that it is essentially a confession. A man

who has made billions in the markets has concluded that they must as a matter of urgency be reformed.

Capital flows from 'core' countries such as the US and UK to emerging markets have dried up, and Mr Soros said a new system of credit insurance was needed to rebuild the global economic link. The crisis had also revealed the need for more international co-operation between national regulators.

However, he defended speculative hedge funds against charges that they caused the near-meltdown this summer. "I don't think they can or should be singled out," he said, just a touch impatiently.

## Fall in sales and output adds to rate cut pressure

By Lea Paterson

PRESSURE ON the Bank of England to deliver its third interest rate cut in three months intensified last night, after new figures pointed to continuing gloom both in manufacturing and on the high street.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), manufacturing output fell in October for the third successive month, meaning the sector is experiencing its longest period of sustained decline since the spring of 1991.

The manufacturing sector shrank by 0.4 per cent during October, with output in the textile and pulp and paper industries suffering particularly sharp falls.

In the three months to October, textile output - now at record lows - declined by 3.9 per cent, the ONS said. Pulp and paper production fell by 2 per cent.

Overall activity in the production industries - which includes mining and electricity supply as well as manufacturing - was unchanged, largely because the cold weather boosted demand for electricity and gas.

Ken Watret at Paribas said: "The numbers made grim reading yet again. The manufacturing side of things is in a terrible mess. I'd be extremely surprised if there is no move in rates on Thursday."

The intensifying rate-cut speculation sent the pound tumbling almost two pence against the German mark to close at DM2.7697.

Another gloomy retailing survey added to the pressure on the

Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which begins its monthly two-day rate-setting meeting tomorrow.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) said there was as yet little sign of a pre-Christmas pick-up on the high street, with like-for-like sales in November 0.4 per cent lower than at this time last year.

Consumer caution remained very much in evidence, according to the BRC, with sales of luxury goods particularly hard-hit. However, with more customers in the shops and pre-Christmas sales of computer games, toys and books going well, there is still a chance retail sales will rise in December.

Andrew Higginson, chairman of the BRC economic affairs committee, said: "Customers remain extremely cautious [i.e. the face of fears of a recession]. The November figure is particularly disappointing as November last year saw the weakest growth in sales of any month in 1997."

Many economists believe the weakness in the manufacturing and retail sectors, combined with growing evidence of a slowdown in services, mean the economy as a whole could contract in the fourth quarter of the year.

According to estimates produced by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, one of the UK's leading think-tanks, the economy did not grow at all in the three months to November.

## Sema takes gold with \$250m Olympics IT contract

SEMA, the Anglo-French computer services group, has won a prestigious contract to handle all computer systems for the Olympic Games from 2002 to 2008, ending IBM's 38-year association with the games.

The deal, believed to be worth about \$250m (£150m), is the largest ever sports-related IT contract awarded. Sema will be responsible for integrating

By Peter Thal Larsen

and managing all computer systems, including ticketing, transport and supplying of data to media agencies and the Internet.

The contract covers the winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, US, in 2002, the summer games in Athens in 2004, and the winter and summer games in 2006

and 2008. It is a major coup for Sema, which wants to become a global player in the computer industry. It is thought to have fended off EDS, the US giant.

"The upside is that it opens Sema to becoming a worldwide brand," said George O'Connor, analyst at Granville, the investment bank. "The challenge is for them to execute on a worldwide basis."

The contract came up for grabs after the International Olympic Committee fell out with IBM, which has handled the systems for 38 years, blaming the US group for the logistical problems in Atlanta in 1996. The two are also believed to have differed about who would have commercial control of the IOC's website.

Sema has experience of

dealing with large sports events, having worked on the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and handled IT for the 1996 European football championships in the UK.

The contract is the first of three to be awarded by the IOC. The others are a deal to handle the timing, believed to have been won by Swatch, the Swiss group. The contract for com-

puter hardware is likely to be fought out between suppliers Compaq and Sun Microsystems of the US.

Pierre Bonelli, Sema chief executive, said: "It is a unique opportunity to demonstrate our skills and experience in the management of long-term complex projects on time and to budget at the world's most highly regarded sports event."

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

IN QUIET, uneventful trading blue chips tended to mark time ahead of Thursday's decision on interest rates.

Footsie, at one time up nearly 50 points, ended 5.2 lower at 5,576.7 with the thin trading largely responsible for the downturn.

Imperial Chemical Industries was the best performing Footsie constituent, up 24p to 570p. ScottishPower's £1.7bn US deal was given the thumbs down as the shares responded with a 86p fall to 609p.

Derek Pain, page 21

#### NEW YORK

US STOCKS rose yesterday, with computer firms leading the way. While the Dow Jones remained unchanged, the Nasdaq climbed nearly 1 per cent to a record 2,020 in early afternoon trading.

Compaq rose nearly 3 per cent, with analysts expecting earnings to quadruple by next year. PacificCorp gained 1.5 per cent after ScottishPower announced its \$12.8bn purchase. Warner

Lambert, the drug company, fell 4 per cent after regulators said 33 people had died as a result of taking Lambert's diabetes pills.

#### TOKYO

JAPANESE STOCKS rose moderately yesterday on the back of gains in Wall Street. In what dealers described as thin trading, the Nikkei closed at 14,742, a 0.6 per cent gain.

The market lacked direction, with traders sitting nervously on the sidelines ahead of the public offering of Nippon Telegraph shares during this week. Not even a positive statement on taxes from Japanese Prime Minister Kazuo Okuchi could lift the lethargy.

The biggest move of the day was Takeda Chemicals, which rose 2 per cent.

#### HONG KONG

HONG KONG shares soared by nearly 5 per cent, with the Hang Seng closing at 10,428 on the back of an unexpected interest rate cut by Hong Kong banks, and a rate drop in China.

HSBC rose 5.4 per cent, finishing at HK\$196, while Dao Hao Bank added 9.5 per cent to close at HK\$24.

The rate cuts were also good news for property companies, raising hopes that buyers would come back to the market. Sun Hung Kai, Hong Kong's largest developer, gained 6 per cent.

#### FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES plummeted yesterday after the release of a factory order report which showed that Europe's largest economy was set for a slowdown. The DAX fell by 2 per cent to finish at 4,720.

Mannesmann, which last year generated 70 per cent of sales from machinery and plant supply, fell back over 1 per cent, while the machinery maker Linde lost over 3 per cent.

Siemens, Germany's biggest manufacturer, dropped 3 per cent to close at DM 100, after analysts at BNP cut their ratings.

سكدا من الاصل



# Empire building on the Oregon trail

THE CORPORATE history books are littered with the corpses of British companies who thought it would be a good idea to buy a business in the United States. At the top of the funeral pyre are retailers and banks, but now along comes a utility determined to throw itself into the fire. At least ScottishPower should have no difficulty providing the spark.

At the start of business yesterday its all-paper merger with PacifiCorp was worth nearly £13bn. By the close of play, it had melted down to £11.5bn, which just goes to show the kind of margin of error ScottishPower is playing with.

The salutary experience that the US utilities underwent when they came over here and picked off two-thirds of our regional electricity companies has not been enough to deter Ian Robinson, ScottishPower chief executive. Two have returned home with their tails between their legs, another split its Rec in half and a further three are on the block.

PacifiCorp is 8,000 miles away and governed by a regulatory regime as different as the Atlantic is wide, but the Scots still believe they have plenty to teach the back-



## OUTLOOK

woodsmen in Oregon. Unfortunately, the novelty of the US regulatory system is that the more profit the Scots make, the more they will end up sharing the spoils with the customer - always supposing they can achieve the \$200m of annual cost savings already targeted. Not like here, where the spoils of efficiency gain go to investors.

Oregon is rich in natural beauty and charm, while all those air miles will keep the Scots and their children in tree flights from Glasgow to London the whole year round. But the management headaches alone of running a business on the other side of another continent make this

one piece of corporate empire building that will all too probably end in tears. It is hard to see how this merger adds value to either party.

## Post Office

MUCH AS Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, tried to dress up his policy for the Post Office yesterday as the right way forward for this bastion of state-administered monopoly and restrictive practice, the decision not to privatise has more to do with realpolitik than rigorous commercial assessment.

Privatisation would have required primary legislation, and even if the Government was able to find time for this in between erecting the Financial Services Authority and dismantling the House of Lords, it is not certain it would have the stomach for it. Even the mighty Hezza, fresh from closing down and privatising the coal industry, was unable to get that one through his back benchers.

Mr Mandelson has enough problems with the trade unions as it is, what with trying to water down the

rules on union recognition; he wouldn't want to take them on over the Post Office as well.

Mr Mandelson seems to have won his battle with the Treasury on another front, too. He has persuaded the Exchequer to reduce the amount of profit taken by way of dividend each year from 80 per cent of the total to 40 per cent. This is still high by private sector standards, but for the investment-starved Post Office, it is a lot better than nothing.

The danger is that 130,000 posties will see this largesse as an early Christmas present and further raise their wage claims. You can pretend the Post Office is in the private sector as much as you like; the establishment of an independent regulator plus new freedoms for the Post Office to borrow and acquire (subject to government approval of course), is powerfully suggestive of the real thing. But in the end, make-believe just isn't the same.

All the same, Mr Mandelson is right in thinking the Post Office would wither and die unless something changes. Even without the promised "phased liberalisation" of the monopoly postal area, the Post Office's position is likely to be pro-

gressively eroded by e-mail and other forms of postal service.

The Post Office is going to prove an interesting test of whether an organisation subject to competitive pressures can be as effectively managed from the public as the private sector. The belief that it can is certainly a triumph of hope over experience, but then again, stranger things have been known.

## UK interest rates

WILL THE prospect of mince pies with tea tomorrow and Thursday make members of the Monetary Policy Committee play Santa and cut interest rates this week? If they don't, the nation will feel Christmas has been cancelled. So should they make it an extra-special Xmas and cut by a half-point or more? Or should they play Scrooge? Short-term interest rates in Britain are now some of the highest in the developed world, so the debate is no longer about whether rates should fall, only about how much and when.

With the latest figures and surveys gloomier than ever, the notion of a big reduction to prevent the

economy sliding too far, too fast has a lot of appeal. The case was put by Willem Buiter at November's MPC meeting. He argued that it would provide some insurance against inflation falling below its 2.5 per cent target - the risk in a year or so's time. Furthermore, it would fortify business and consumer confidence at a time when they were diving. Finally, it would be better to cut rates as far as they would probably have to fall in one swoop, rather than making a series of little reductions.

In a recent speech another MPC member, Charles Goodhart, reported that central banks are in real life far less activist than they ought to be in theory. In theory, a surplus of news about the economy one way or the other ought to tilt the balance; we should expect to see lots of rate changes, and lots of reversals.

In practice central banks are far more cautious. They rarely change the direction of policy, and when they do, it is to move in a series of small steps. Big changes in interest rates are the exception.

Professor Goodhart reckons that this is partly because commentators always criticise a big shift in policy. When the MPC raised rates unex-

pectedly in June, it was described as "laughable" and accused of dissipating its credibility. Central bankers are only human, and they are sensitive about these things.

But it is also partly because of pervasive uncertainty about the state of the economy. The data is uncertain - witness the suspension of the average earnings figures and the normal size of revisions to GDP. The way the economy works is uncertain too and it is uncertain - driving through thick fog, using only a rear-view mirror with steering that responds with a two-year lag - that justifies moving rates in small steps.

That said, nobody would much mind the MPC getting it wrong now and cutting interest rates too much. Inflation might rise above target but we all enjoy an expansion. But just think of the uproar if it had raised rates by three-quarters of a point in one go last year. We would all have been pretty uncertain about whether the economy needed that medicine. Professor Goodhart's preference for small doses is probably the right one, and it is the one most likely to be adopted at this week's meeting of the MPC. The debate will rage on, all the same.



Gavin Casey, the London Stock Exchange chief executive (left), and Pawel Rzepka, president of Telekomunikacja Polska, Poland's privatised telecoms company, launching the biggest ever global depositary receipt listing on the Exchange

yesterday. London's campaign to retain its position as Europe's leading financial centre was given a further boost by the Exchange's first euro-denominated depositary receipt - from Croatia's largest commercial bank.

Nicola Kuzt

## ScotPower falls on US deal

SHARES IN ScottishPower fell by almost 10 per cent yesterday as the market questioned whether the group had overpaid by agreeing to buy the US utility PacifiCorp for \$4.2bn, writes Michael Harrison.

The all-share deal will turn ScottishPower into one of the world's 10 leading utility companies but leave it saddled with

£5.5bn of debt and a £1.9bn goodwill write-off.

Ian Robinson, ScottishPower chief executive, said the deal would be earnings-enhancing from the first full year and indicated it could take up

to \$200m out of PacifiCorp's costs over the next four years.

The ambitious transatlantic deal will be accompanied by a \$500m share buyback. Analysts also expect ScottishPower to speed up flotation of its Scottish

Telecom subsidiary, worth an estimated £1.2bn.

The group brushed aside prospects of a rival cash bid for Oregon-based PacifiCorp. It said that although this is the first foreign takeover of a US

utility, it expected regulator clearance within six months. Some analysts believe the deal will take 12 to 18 months to gain approval. Ian Robinson will be chief executive of the enlarged group, which is valued at \$12bn at yesterday's closing prices.

Outlook, above  
News analysis, page 18  
People and Business, page 21

## Investors challenge Marston pub deal

SOME OF the largest institutional shareholders in regional brewer Marston. Thompson & Eversheds are planning to vote against the company's proposed securitisation of its tenanted pub estate at a crunch meeting tomorrow.

The shareholders aim to enable the £262m bid from Wolverhampton & Dudley to be considered at greater length.

The vote on securitisation is seen as a test of confidence in Marston's management as Wolves has made its 282p per share offer conditional on the £137m securitisation being rejected.

One major institutional shareholder said it has "made it known" to Marston that it wants the meeting adjourned. "It is incumbent on the board to adjourn the meeting in order to properly discuss the offer," the shareholder said.

Shareholders are unhappy

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

that Marstons appears to have agreed to some heavy upfront costs in the securitisation that would be written off if the meeting is pulled.

Marstons is said to have incurred costs of £5m so far in the securitisation, which is being arranged through Nomura, the Japanese investment bank. However, total costs including compliance, legal advice and hedging costs are thought to be around £18m.

Marstons said yesterday that its emergency meeting to approve the securitisation was expected to go ahead. It has said before that it would be too expensive to defer the securitisation.

Some of Marstons' institutional shareholders believe the Wolves bid is "too low." Marstons shares closed 3p

down at 291p yesterday. Wolverhampton & Dudley shares were a penny lower at 423.5p.

Marstons is offering to return 110p per share to shareholders via a share buy-back if they approve the securitisation. The company then wants to use the remaining proceeds to invest in its managed pubs estate, which includes the Pitcher & Piano group of bars.

Greene King, the Abbot ale brewer, is waiting in the wings as a potential "white knight" bidder for Marstons. However, it is understood to be waiting until the outcome of tomorrow's meeting is known before showing its hand.

The company is thought to be interested in playing a part in the consolidation of the brewing and pub sector. The City might view such a move favourably after its successful integration of the Magic Pub Company in 1996.

## GKN pays £335m for US metal components firm

GKN TOOK a major step forward in its American expansion strategy yesterday by paying £335m to acquire a US powder metallurgy, aerospace components and industrial services business.

The acquisition of Interlake Corporation will also transform GKN into the world's leading vertically-integrated supplier of powdered metal components, which are taking over from castings and forgings in the car and aerospace industries because of their lightness and strength.

The acquisition will mean GKN has increased its sales in powder metallurgy seven-fold to \$811m since 1996 and doubled its turnover in the aerospace components sector

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

GKN is paying £158m for Interlake's equity and assuming debt of £177m. It will also incur a goodwill charge of £476m which will be amortised over 20 years.

Interlake employs 2,500 people and made profits of £27m on sales of £283m last year. Of its three divisions, the most important is the Hoeganaes Corporation, which has sales of \$200m and supplies 50 per cent of the US market for powdered metals.

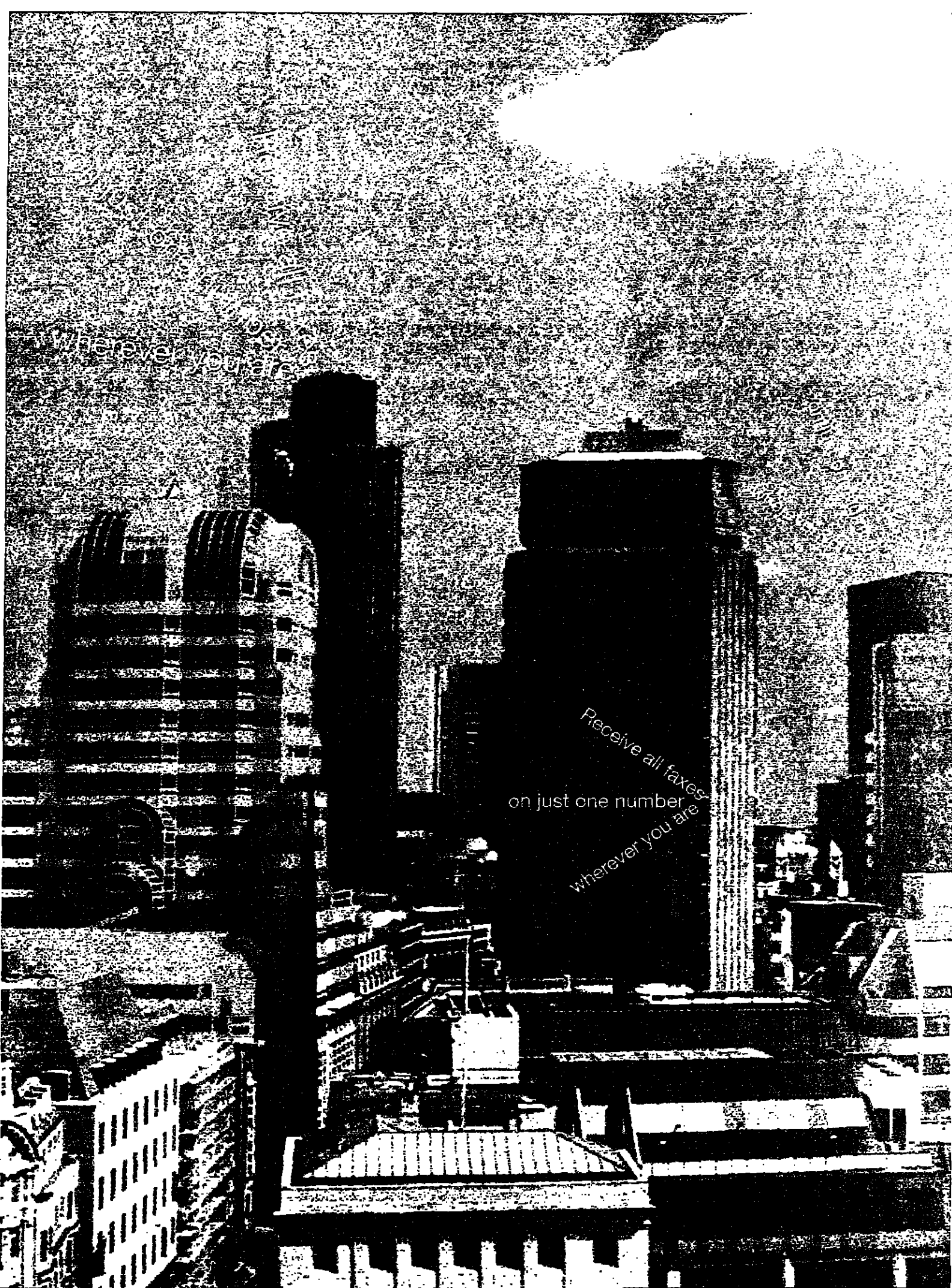
GKN is already a big customer of Hoeganaes, accounting for about 15 per cent of its sales. About 80 per cent of its turnover comes from the automotive industry and the rest

from sectors such as pharmaceuticals and photocopying.

C.K. Chow, chief executive of GKN, said it did not anticipate any regulatory or competition difficulties. He also said Hoeganaes would be run as an arms' length business, to reassure its other customers that they would not be at a disadvantage to GKN.

Interlake's Chem-Tronics division has sales of \$200m and makes lightweight components for the aerospace industry, mainly engine manufacturers such as Rolls-Royce, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney.

The third leg of the business, industrial services, is a complementary fit for GKN's Cheltenham division and makes racking for pallets and conveyors.



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News Analysis: Will the Scots have more joy in the US power market than the Americans have had here?

# ScottishPower turns tables with US buy

THE BRITISH are coming. At last. After watching more than half the UK electricity industry being swallowed up by American utilities, ScottishPower yesterday turned the tables with an all-paper \$4.4bn takeover of the Oregon-based electricity company PacifiCorp.

ScottishPower's bid is opportunistic - PacifiCorp shares are at an 18-month low and the business is rudderless having sacked its chief executive three months ago. Nor was PacifiCorp the first choice. ScottishPower's chief executive, Ian Robinson, having previously held abortive talks with two other US utilities - Florida Light and Power and Cinergy.

The question the City is now asking is will the Scots have any more joy in the US power market than the Americans have had over here?

The US invasion of the British electricity industry has scarcely been an unalloyed success. Of the eight regional electricity companies bought by American utilities, two have been sold back, another has been split in two and a further three are reckoned to be on the block.

And yet the "me too" mentality that attracted so many US

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

companies into the UK electricity market looks like being repeated in the opposite direction across the Atlantic. Where ScottishPower has led, British Energy, National Grid and, eventually perhaps, PowerGen look to follow.

ScottishPower may know everything there is to know about electricity and how to supply it more efficiently. But with PacifiCorp, it is walking into a business that is 8,000 miles away and operates under a very different regulatory regime. Nor are there the same synergies and cost benefits to be wrung out of PacifiCorp as ScottishPower achieved with its earlier UK acquisitions, Manweb and Southern Water.

So is this merely empire building on a grand and distant scale? Richard Alderman of Merrill Lynch says the straight answer is probably yes. "ScottishPower would have had to do a deal soon or it would have run out of steam."

But for the moment he is prepared to give the company the benefit of the doubt. "The other question you have to ask is have they managed acquisitions successfully in the past and

the answer has to be yes. It will be hard for them not to show a positive return on this deal."

In PacifiCorp, ScottishPower is inheriting a business with 1.4 million customers in six US states along with interests in 10,000 megawatts of coal-fired generation and a handful of coal mines. PacifiCorp also owns the electricity supply and distribution business serving Melbourne, Australia.

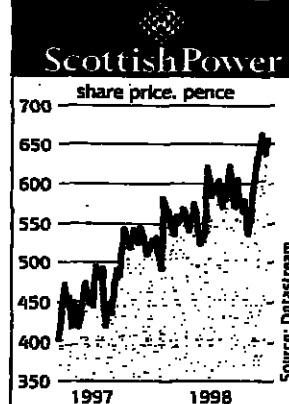
It also inherits a business that has underperformed both financially and managerially. PacifiCorp has not raised its dividend since 1993 and it has consistently undershot the "profit cap" imposed by its state regulators by an average of 25 per cent.

Whereas US utilities are typically allowed to earn a rate of return on equity of 12-13 per cent, PacifiCorp has struggled to achieve 10 per cent and in some states has slipped as low as 8-9 per cent. ScottishPower estimates that over the next four years it can generate annual efficiency savings of up to \$200m without bumping up against its regulated rate of return.

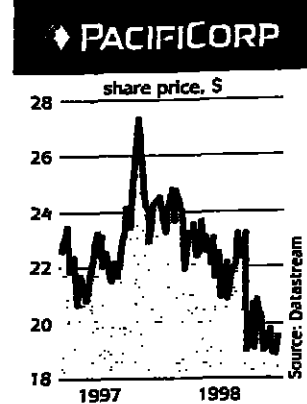
Ian Russell, deputy chief executive of ScottishPower and the other half of the management duo that has plotted its spec-



(Left to right) Ian Russell, ScottishPower deputy chief executive; Richard O'Brian, PacifiCorp chief operating officer; Murray Stuart, ScottishPower chairman; Ian Robinson, ScottishPower chief executive Mark Chilvers



Glasgow	Headquarters	Portland, Oregon
Value	Value	Value
£7.6bn	£6.3bn	£4.4bn
Turnover	Turnover	Turnover
£3.1bn	£6.3bn	£6.3bn
Profits	Profits	Profits
£489m	£664m	£664m
Customers	Customers	Customers
5 million	1.4 million	1.4 million
Employees	Employees	Employees
14,300	8,100	8,100
Activities	Activities	Activities
Electricity generation, distribution, supply in Scotland. Also owns Manweb, Southern Water and Scottish Telecom plus gas supply business	Supplies electricity in six US states, owns coal mines and coal-fired stations. Also owns Powercor in Australia	



ulations imposed through the Public Utilities Holding Act. The other myth, he says, is that there is only limited scope for earnings growth in the US because the US regulatory system

restrictions imposed through the Public Utilities Holding Act. The other myth, he says, is that there is only limited scope for earnings growth in the US because the US regulatory system

caps profits, unlike the British one, which caps prices and therefore allows shareholders to hang onto any efficiency gains made.

Mr Russell says Scottish-

Power has been "welcomed with open arms" by the Securities and Exchange Commission while state regulatory approval should be received in five to six months since the deal raises no compe-

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Power has been "welcomed with open arms" by the Securities and Exchange Commission while state regulatory approval should be received in five to six months since the deal raises no compe-

tion concerns but is merely a change of ownership.

He also points out that in two of the six states in which PacifiCorp operates - Oregon and Wyoming - incentive-based regulation has been introduced, allowing utilities to exceed their regulated rate of return and share the surplus between customers and shareholders.

The other big questionmark is how well ScottishPower's share offer will go down in the US and whether it has the firepower to match any rival cash bidder that might surface.

About half of PacifiCorp's shares are held by private investors. ScottishPower believes its all-paper offer will be attractive to them because there will be no tax to pay immediately while income growth, the main reason retail investors hold shares, will be superior.

Analysts also point out that ScottishPower has been assiduous in courting US investors. "When it goes on a roadshow it covers the country east coast to west. It is better known in the US than any other European utility," says one analyst.

In the past three years, the proportion of the company owned by US investors has risen from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. ScottishPower has not ruled out a rival bid for PacifiCorp. But, as Mr Russell says: "There are not many others who could afford to match us on a cash basis. And if another US utility decided to bid it could face competition problems and an 18-month wait for regulatory clearance."

Nevertheless, the PacifiCorp bid will be its most ambitious and most risky expansion to date. Mr Robinson says: "We spent a year looking at the US, researching the market, and we are confident we have found the ideal partner." History will show whether those words stand the test of time.

## Evans Halshaw soars on bid approach

SHARES IN the car dealership Evans Halshaw, which has 64 Ford, Vauxhall and Audi franchises, soared yesterday on hopes of a £70m-plus takeover bid. Potential bidders include the American group Republic and British dealerships Pen- dragon and Sanderson Bramall Motor Group.

Evans Halshaw shares rose 50p to 211.5p on confirmation that the company had received

an approach "which may or may not lead to a recommended offer being made for the company at a premium to the current share price".

Analysts speculated last night that the company had probably received more than one approach and that the chairman, Alan Smith, formerly with the brewer Boddingtons, is almost certain to recommend a deal.

Evans Halshaw, which has annual sales of around £800m and is expected to make pre-tax profits of £14m this year, has been affected by the general economic downturn which has led to a collapse in consumer confidence.

UK car dealerships such as Evans Halshaw are also struggling against a backdrop of increasing consolidation in the sector and the move by manu-

facturers, including Ford, to take direct stakes in the dealerships selling their car models.

In September Evans Halshaw reported that trading could be difficult in the second half of its year, which prompted analysts to downgrade their forecasts for the current year to the £14m level.

Evans Halshaw shares have fallen from around 300p earlier this year.

## Blagden announces U-turn on strategy

BLAGDEN, the troubled chemicals and industrial group, yesterday executed a 180-degree change in its strategy when it pulled out of talks with potential bidders, parted company with its chief executive, and announced plans to hit the acquisition trail.

Shares in Blagden plunged 21 per cent to 136.5p as the group announced that it had ended two-month-old takeover talks after the company's board was "unable to agree terms which it considered would be acceptable to shareholders".

David Kendall, the chairman, said the management would now concentrate on pursuing acquisitions "in a market place which is continuing to soften".

He added that the company had been in "active discussions" with several targets which would add to Blagden's manufacturing and speciality chemical distribution units.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Blagden has a cash pile worth around £80m.

Dick Searle, Blagden's chief executive of the past four years and the manager credited with helping to turn the group around, will be leaving the company at the end of December. Most of his responsibilities will be taken over by David Roache, who will carry on as finance director. Eryl Morris, the former deputy chief executive of Courtaulds, the chemicals group, and currently a non-executive director of Blagden, will become deputy chairman.

David Kendall, Blagden's chairman, said Mr Searle's departure "reflects the size and composition of the group going forward".

The upheaval follows Blagden's earlier decision to concentrate on its speciality chemicals operations - a move that prompted the sale of its

packaging and protective equipment divisions.

Several large groups, including ICI and Elementis, have been concentrating on speciality chemicals in the belief that the market for those products is stable and relatively predictable.

However, the move has been undermined by the effects of the world economic slowdown, which has knocked demand.

Moreover, many analysts believe that small chemical companies are not large enough to survive on their own, and will be forced to sell up to larger predators.

In the past year, UK-listed chemical companies including Allied Colloids, Inspec and Courtaulds have all been taken over by larger predators.

Although Blagden never revealed the names of its suitors, the company is believed to have been in discussions with several potential trade buyers.

### IN BRIEF

#### Zenith forecasts ad-spend growth

ZENITH, the media planning agency, defied media wisdom by forecasting that growth in global advertising spending would accelerate.

The group, jointly owned by advertising giants Saatchi & Saatchi and Cordiant, predicted that spending on advertising would grow by 4.2 per cent in next year, 5.3 per cent in 2000 and 5.8 per cent in 2001, compared to expected growth of 3.9 per cent this year. John Perriss, Zenith chairman, said: "The message from our worldwide network is clear - advertisers feel good about the future."

#### Compel's £1 deal

COMPEL, the computer services group, yesterday snapped up rival supplier InfoProducts for just £1. The company, which has assets of £28m but is losing money and has debts of £10m, will give Compel access to blue-chip customers such as Ford, Procter & Gamble and Shell. The deal will be part-funded by a shareholder placing to raise £3m.

#### Carclo profit fall

CARCLO, the engineering group, announced the £11.5m acquisition of Combined Optical Industries from Quadromatic and a 29 per cent fall in six-month pre-tax profits to £5.7m. George Kennedy, Carclo chairman, said the card-clothing division had been "directly exposed to the worst of the global recession in the textile business". The shares closed up 4 per cent at 92p.

#### Aggreko's Tower

AGGREKO, specialist in renting air conditioning and temperature equipment, announced the £13.5m purchase of Tower Tech, the US cooling tower specialist. Tower Tech's hi-tech products are used in the nuclear, pharmaceutical and petrochemical industries. The acquisition is "an important continuation of our growth strategy," said the chief executive, Dr Chris Masters.

#### Bullough sales

BULLOUGH, the engineering group, yesterday announced the £16.9m sale of three of its refrigeration businesses to a group led by 3i Group and funded by Royal Bank of Scotland. The proceeds of the disposal will chiefly be used to repay company debt, currently standing at £13.2m. "This is an important further step in our drive to sharpen the focus of Bullough," said the company's chief executive, Gordon Bond.

## Hillsdown poultry breeder sold to buyout for £100m

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food conglomerate which demerged its chilled foods and housebuilding businesses in the summer, has sold the Ross Breeders poultry business to a management buyout for £100m.

However, deteriorating market conditions have disrupted the remainder of Hillsdown's disposal programme. The furniture division, which includes Christie Tyler, has been taken off the market after venture capital buyers backed off. They had been offering around £160m compared to Hillsdown's asking price of £175m.

The remainder of the poultry business, which is struggling against over-supply and

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

the effects of the strong pound, will not now be sold. Neither will the potatoes division, where the level of offers has been disappointing.

Of the original disposal programme, only the continental bakeries and wine and spirits operations are still on the market. Discussions over these sales are continuing, Hillsdown said.

The proceeds from the Ross Breeders disposal will be used to reduce debt, which will stand at £245m following the deal, Hillsdown said.

In a current trading state-

ment, the company said the grocery and furniture divisions were trading satisfactorily, but there has been no improvement in the fortunes of the poultry business.

The buyout of Ross Breeders has been backed by the venture capital group, BC Partners. The business will continue to be run by John Ewart, Ross's chief executive.

Ross Breeders specialises in genetically bred poultry stock, which is supplied to farmers for breeding. It has 11 hatcheries and 147 farms worldwide. Last year it recorded operating profits of £11.1m on sales of £84.5m. Hillsdown shares closed unchanged at 75p.

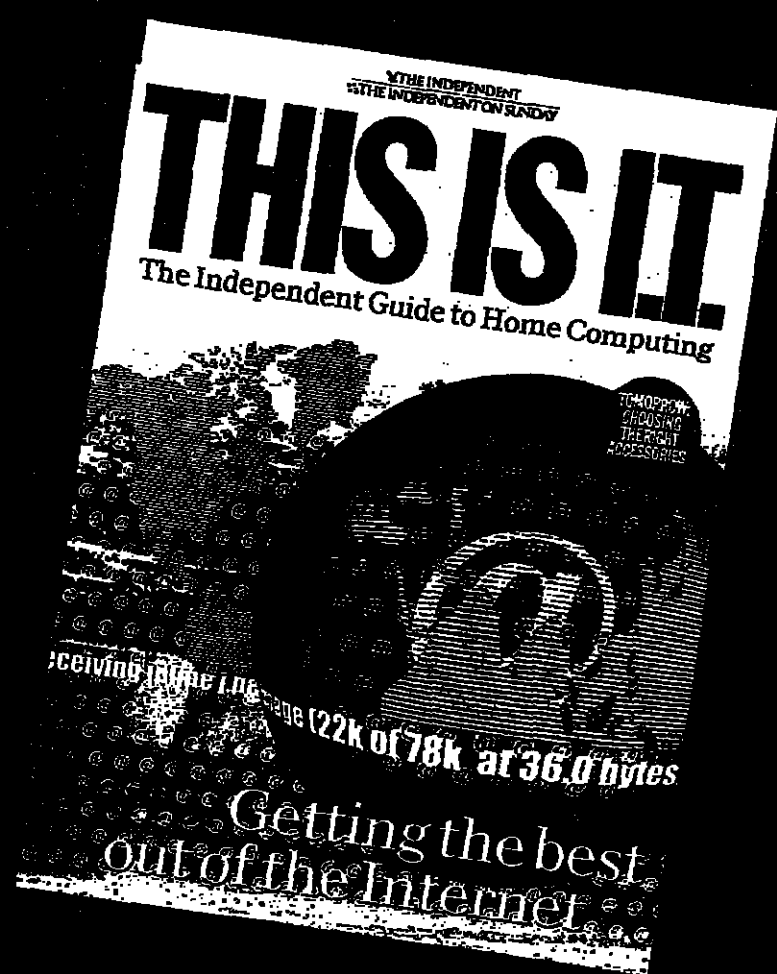
### COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-lev
Aardl	78.17m (74.94m)	1.23m (5.62m)	22.3p (17.9p)	4.1p (3.6p)	01.02.99	14.12.98
Aspley Group (I)	2.28m (1.83m)	0.23m (0.22m)	0.4p (0.7p)	-	-	-
British Land Company (I)	*135.1m (130.8m)	50.1m (51.6m)	8.1p (8.4p)	3.23p (3.07p)	06.04.99	22.02.99
Carclo Engineering Group (I)	86.16m (91.87m)	5.68m (5.05m)	6.8p (6.4p)	3.44p (3.44p)	06.04.99	01.03.99
Colson Group (I)	15.59m (12.143m)	1.80m (1.493m)	0.70p (0.60p)	0.20p (0.18p)	06.04.99	15.03.99
Fuapet Trading Group (I)	15.06m (13.42m)	0.303m (0.340m)	1.79p (1.87p)	0.8p (0.8p)	10.02.99	28.12.98
Galaxy Media Corporation (I)	0.509m (2.01m)	-0.482m (-0.485m)	-13.2m (-13.4p)	-	-	-
Jervis (I)	271.89m (28.276m)	19.699m (12.653m)	11.0p (10.2p)	3.5p (2.5p)	06.04.99	22.02.99
Marshall (I)	29.305m (31.277m)	2.05m (0.991m)	12.5p (12.1p)	3.7p (3.3p)	04.02.99	04.01.99
PlayStation (I)	0.713m (0.055m)	-3.83m (-3.55m)	-11.7p (8.9p)	-	-	-
Procter Asset Management (I)	3.47m (1.19m)	-1.86m (-1.73m)	-2.21p (-1.31p)	-	-	-
Spry Group (I)	193.3m (119.3m)	3.2m (5.6m)	0.79p (0.77p)	0.1p (1.0p)	07.06.99	14.12.98
Tape Estates (I)	*6.463m (6.665m)	1.591m (1.306m)	3.11p (2.82p)	0.79p (0.74p)	06.04.99	08.02.99
Trust (I)	22.06m (22.59m)	2.17m (1.34m)	15.6p (10.5p)	6.4p (6.5p)	09.04.99	01.03.99
Worthington Group (I)	18.65m (18.96m)	1.93m (1.92m)	3.34p (3.32p)	1.07p (1.0p)	09.04.99	14.12.98
Yusman Group (I)	2.801m (0.173m)	-1.462m (-0.644m)	-28.7m (-13.4p)	-	-	-

(I) - Final (I) - Interim (I) - Quarterly (I) - Split Period (I) - Nine Months

\*Net Financial Income

Continuing next Saturday in  
THE INDEPENDENT



PART 3 - Getting the most out of the Internet

Everything you need to know about Home Computing  
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551 من الامتحان



Rhône-Poulenc informs its shareholders

# Aventis

## Creation of a new global leader in life sciences

**RHÔNE-POULENC and HOECHST plan<sup>(1)</sup> to merge their Life Sciences activities (Pharmaceuticals, Animal and Plant Health) into a new company, called AVENTIS. Ownership will be equally divided between the two partners.**

**"With its new culture, increased R&D resources, competitive positioning in emerging technologies, enhanced product pipeline and strong marketing prowess, Aventis will have a solid platform for sustained medium-to-long-term growth in both sales and profitability".**

Jürgen Dormann  
Chairman of Hoechst A.G.

Jean-René Fourtou  
Chairman of Rhône-Poulenc S.A.

**Aventis, a milestone** which takes Hoechst's and Rhône-Poulenc's long-established strategic focus on Life Sciences a step further.

**Aventis, the birth of a global leader.** With 1997 pro forma sales of US\$ 20 billion and 95,000 employees, Aventis will be a global leader in Life Sciences, in Pharmaceuticals, in Vaccines, in Plant Health and in Animal Health.

**Aventis, international, unified management.** Aventis will leverage and build upon the expertise and experience of executives from both parent companies, with a shared vision and common approach to business, committed to a successful integration while building the foundation for future development.

**Aventis, a high performance organization.** Hoechst's and Rhône-Poulenc's Life Sciences units will be regrouped into a new company Aventis consisting of **Aventis Pharma** and **Aventis Agriculture**.

**Aventis, a foundation for long-term growth.** Aventis will possess one of the largest R&D budgets in its category as well as a wide range of emerging technologies.

**Aventis, a European company with global reach.** Headquartered in Strasbourg, between Paris and Frankfurt, Aventis will be a French incorporated company.

**Aventis, a seamless union.** In the initial two to three year phase, both parent companies will exist alongside each other and will continue to be publicly listed. During this time, they will be renamed **Aventis Hoechst** and **Aventis Rhône-Poulenc**. This integration phase will come to an end when both partners have divested their chemicals businesses in the best interest of shareholders and employees alike. When the merger is completed, there will be a listing of a single stock.

[www.rhone-poulenc.com](http://www.rhone-poulenc.com) / [www.hoechst.com](http://www.hoechst.com)

**Aventis : the name evokes movement, innovation, sciences, the future and constant progress.**

(1) The merger is expected to be submitted to the General Meetings of Shareholders, by mid-1999, once the regulatory approvals have been obtained and the legal procedures carried out.





# Mortgage banks depress sentiment

AHEAD OF Thursday's expected interest-rate cut, mortgage banks came under pressure as cautious comments emerged from two investment houses and another was thought to be on the verge of producing a bearish circular.

Alliance & Leicester led the retreat, falling 41.5p to 850.5p; Woolwich was not far behind with a 14.75p decline to 354p and Halifax slipped 17p to 847p.

CSFB believes the former building societies are 18 per cent overvalued and suggests investors should be underweight in the shares. It is worried by growing competition and the impact of the slowdown in the economy. The investment house is expected to trim its profit forecasts.

The much smaller Williams de Broe has already widened the axe, lopping a few million from its Abbey National and Halifax current-year estimates, but was much more severe on next year's forecasts, cutting Abbey 55m to £1.65bn and Halifax £70m to £1.83bn. The stockbroker regards Abbey shares, down 7p at 1,178p, as a buy but is a seller of Halifax.

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Credit Lyonnais is thought to be lining up a negative review of the mortgage banks, and there were suggestions ABN Amro was cautious on some of the players, particularly Alliance & Leicester.

The rest of the market had a lethargic session, with the looming Monetary Policy Committee decision prompting many investors to observe events from the sidelines. At one time Footsie was up 49.2 points but as the session wore on the lack of buying interest took its toll and by the close the index was

nursing a 5.2 fall at 5,576.7. The mid cap and small cap indices achieved modest progress.

Even a dazzling array of rumours of various forms of corporate action failed to stimulate. British Aerospace and General Electric Co. were among the heavyweight contenders for takeover honours and First Leisure Corporation and Sears were also prominent.

BAe, 15.25p higher at 511p, was back on the European consolidation runway. There is little doubt that links between the European aerospace groups are being discussed; the question is when will a deal be clinched and what form it will take.

The latest stir stemmed from weekend rumours in France that DaimlerChrysler Aerospace and BAe were near to revealing an alliance which could be the central force in any regrouping.

GEC, 3p firmer at 537p, reflected reports that it has held discussions over joint ventures, possibly even a full merger, with Lockheed Martin, the US group.

The big blue-chip deal of the day failed to provoke any enthusiasm. ScottishPower was short-circuited

66p to 609p after confirming its £4.7bn deal with PacificCorp. The all-share takeover will catapult the group, with a £12.8bn capitalisation, into the world's top 10 utilities.

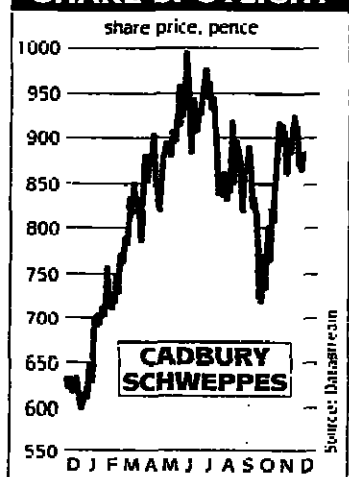
Among the midcap bid candi-

AHEAD OF a trading update due tomorrow Kingfisher rose 7.5p to 524p. BT Alex Brown regards the shares, which have performed much better than most retailers, as a buy but feels the trading report could be disappointing. It frets about the retail recession which "must be hurting" and has trimmed its year's expectations by 4.3 per cent to £559.2m. Kingfisher has moved between 406p and 582.5p in the past year.

dates, First Leisure put on 22p to 255.5p on talk of a management buy-out or venture capitalist break-up. In summer the shares were 436.5p.

Sears, the retailer which demerged Selfridges in July, hardened 7p to 240p. Here again a venture

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



capitalist-backed bid is considered more likely than a strike from another retail chain.

Engineer Siebe firmed 2p to 218.75p on talk that its offer for struggling rival BTR was encountering growing City criticism.

Among the third liners Evans Halshaw led the field. The car dealer drove up 50p to 211.5p as it said bid talks were under way. The

shares were 305p in the spring. Aspen, a hard-pressed marketing group, lost 9p to 40p after putting itself up for sale and warning of further losses. Chemical group Blagden Industries

EXPLORATION MINNOWS, irrespective of what they are seeking, remain in the spotlight in the stock market. Latest to feel the pinch is Little South African group Firestone Diamonds, floated at 114p in the summer. The shares, already down to 81.5p, plunged a further 15p prompting the company to complain it was unaware of any reason for the fall. It promised updates on its developments in the near future, saying they were "progressing well".

slumped 37p to 136.5p as talks with a potential bidder were called off. Cadbury Schweppes hardened 18p to 833p. The confectionery and soft drinks group has clinched a bottling deal which "will ensure future growth" of its Dr Pepper/Seven-Up

soft drink operation in the US.

Analysts' comments were not confined to mortgage banks. Lehman Brothers provided a boost for Imperial Chemical Industries. Surprisingly, the American investment bank had not, until now, researched what used to be the bellwether of UK industrial health. It set a target price of 700p, enough to put ICI at the top of the Footsie leader board with a 24p gain to 570p.

J Sainsbury, downgraded by Goldman Sachs, was cut 13p to 462.5p and Tesco, ahead of an investment meeting tomorrow, slipped 2p to 162p.

Shell, the oil giant which has been left out in the cold, flared 6.5p to 335p after confirming that it intended to meet analysts this month. Jockeying ahead of this week's various FTSE index changes prompted activity, with advertising group WPP, one of those in the relegation zone, up 13.25p to 346.75p. And Dixons, a sure-fire candidate for promotion, 20p up at 770p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 669.1 million  
SEAQ TRADES: 34,681  
GILT INDEX: 113.89 -0.34

Investment: Developer British Land is heavily exposed in City of London property

## Ritblat shrugs off slump fears

BY PETER TEAL LARSEN

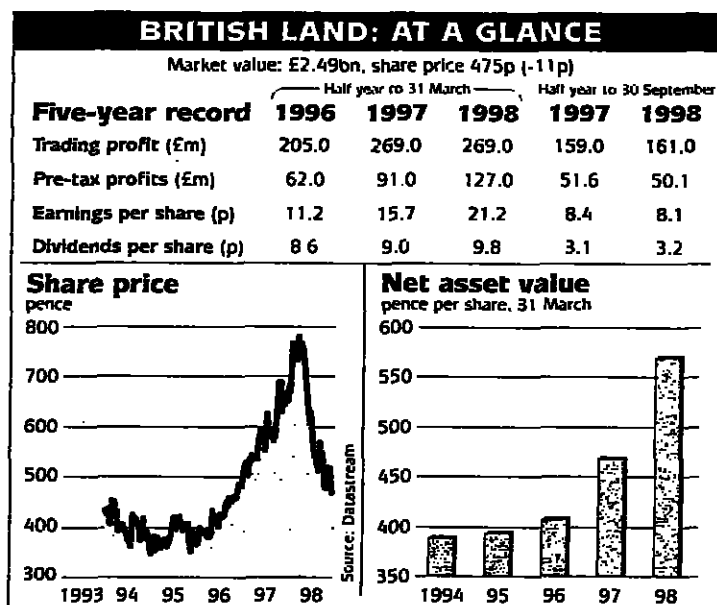
JOHN RITBLAT, chairman of British Land, yesterday shrugged off fears of an impending property slump and declared his intention to carry on expanding Britain's largest and most successful property group.

"Our long-term view remains positive, particularly in the City of London, where we are continuing to take advantage of good investment opportunities," he said as British Land reported a slight fall in interim pre-tax profits to £50.1m.

That view is at odds with much of the City, which believes that British Land's exposure to the Square Mile makes it vulnerable to a downturn. These worries have driven shares in the company down from their peak of 803p in March. Yesterday, they closed down 11p at 475p.

"It's interesting that he is talking about long-term confidence in the City but says nothing about the short term," one analyst said.

The main concern is that Mr Ritblat splashed out heavily on two projects just before the stock market dived in August. First, British Land bought the building occupied by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for £206m. It then signed a joint venture with Railtrack



to develop a new 65,000-square metre building in Broadgate next to Liverpool Street station. The complex project involves British Land building a raft over the railway tracks before it can start building.

Those deals, and others around Broadgate, mean British Land's exposure to the Square Mile now accounts for almost half its portfolio.

"You've got competition from developments such as Canary Wharf and you've got some good second hand space coming on to the market in a few years' time," says one observer. "Where will the growth come from?"

John Weston-Smith, British Land finance director, says the group is buying property because it is avail-



John Ritblat: Optimism is at odds with City sentiment

able. "You've got to grab things when you can." He adds that the City market is not overwhelmed with space, and that British Land will not start building the new developments until it has found occupants.

However, British Land is believed to be trying to sell some of its City properties outside the Broadgate development, suggesting

that it is not quite as bullish as it sounds, and the issue has overshadowed British Land's other projects. The company's property joint ventures with Tesco and Great Universal Stores, the retail giants, are performing well: in the six months to September, British Land's share of profit from joint ventures jumped 18 per cent to £29.4m.

Then there is the question of what British Land plans to do with its 6.3 per cent stake in Selfridges, the troubled Oxford Street department store. City observers suggest that a joint venture with a bidder or a sale-and-leaseback would be two possibilities.

Forecasts put British Land's net asset value for the year to 31 March 1999 at about 600p per share. This means that the group's shares, which dropped 6p to 480p yesterday, are hardly overvalued.

But, while investors praise British Land's management, its blue-chip customer base and strong cash flow, they see little prospect of the market changing its sentiment towards the company.

It is just as well that Mr Ritblat is taking a long-term view, because in the short term British Land shares are showing few signs of making up the ground they have lost.

## Vaccine boost for Powderject

POWDERJECT Pharmaceuticals, the drug company behind the needle-less syringe, yesterday revealed a major breakthrough in the fight against Hepatitis B.

The Anglo-US group has become the first company in the world to complete a successful trial of a DNA-based vaccine for Hepatitis B - a potentially fatal liver disease that affects 350m people worldwide.

The success of phase one trials triggered a £1m payment to Powderject from the pharmaceutical giant Glaxo Wellcome, its partner in the vaccine venture. It also put the biotechnology group in a leading position in the £1bn a year market for Hepatitis B vaccines.

DNA vaccines are considered safer than traditional treatments because they carry a lower risk of causing the disease.

News of the successful trial sent Powderject shares up 14p to 509p. Shares in Powderject, which yes-

terday reported a near two-fold increase in its interim pre-tax loss to £4.8m, have risen almost four-fold since the beginning of the year.

Investors have perceived the company as lower-risk than other biotechnology groups because it does not develop its own drugs. The company's reliance on existing drugs reduces the risk of a failure in the development programme and ensures a steadier earnings stream.

However, Powderject still needs to go through clinical trials as all its drugs have to be tested for use with its needle-less syringes.

The syringe, which uses a super-sonic burst of helium instead of a needle to deliver the compound, is being tested on three main products: the Hepatitis B vaccine, a local anaesthetic Lidocaine and the anti-inflammatory drug Alprostadil. The company plans to launch Lidocaine on the

market at the end of 2000, with Alprostadil coming on stream a year later.

Sally Bennett, a pharmaceutical analyst with broker Sutherland, said that Powderject's strategy cushioned it against the uncertainties experienced by other drug development companies.

"It's clear that its technology works. The difficulty is that it has to reformulate existing drugs into forms that can be injected in the syringe," she said.

She added that with £26.7m of cash in the bank and a number of agreements with major pharmaceutical partners, the yearly cash-burn of around £10m would not be a problem.

However, other analysts said that Powderject shares were now fully priced. "The problem is that they are much better valued than other biotech companies and their lower risk status is already in the price," one industry expert said.

## Jarvis set to gain from boom in PFI contracts

BY SIMON DUKE

JARVIS, the transport infrastructure maintenance company, yesterday predicted that the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) would yield it further opportunities.

Reporting a 55 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profit to £19.7m, Paris Moayed, the chief executive, said: "We do not view the PFI as a fad, but as the most common way capital projects will be funded in future. Most value will not be in construction, but in facility management."

Jarvis, which has track maintenance contracts with Railtrack worth over £500m and a large road marking operation, maintains that its businesses are recession-resistant.

Chairman Roger Payton said: "Jarvis has a secured workload for the current and future years in excess of £1.2bn [and] operates in markets where demand for its services can be expected to remain high."

Mr Moayed said: "The demand for road marking does not change if there is a recession." Jarvis wants to expand road maintenance into Europe, and expects to benefit from Railtrack's £17bn investment plan.

One analyst said that, with maintenance contracts lasting up to 30 years, "the City believes PFI has a massive future". Peter Jones, analyst at Peel Hunt, said: "The likelihood of growth in PFI contracts in the sectors in which Jarvis specialises means it will have above average turnover growth, and significant forward earnings visibility."

With the shares flat at 605p yesterday, and analysts forecasting full-year profits of £65m, the stock trades at a forward p/e of 17. With rivals such as Serco trading at up to 30, Jarvis looks cheap at these levels.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES					
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot	D-Mark 3 month
UK	1.0000			0.6049	0.6055
Australia	2.6674	2.6654	2.6605	1.6140	1.6144
Canada	19.511	19.487	19.442	11.893	11.898
Denmark	57.206	57.032	56.760	34.535	34.442
France	2.5425	2.5388	2.5331	1.5374	1.5371
Germany	10.338	10.314	10.278	6.3666	6.3550
Italy	1.4126	1.4097	1.4029	1.1714	1.1747
Japan	8.4275	8.4033	8.3630	5.0886	5.0747
Netherlands	9.2474	9.2464	9.2454	5.5111	5.5063
Portugal	20.472	20.464	20.456	1.5711	1.5695
Spain	16.648	16.633	16.618	2.810	2.805
Sweden	12.807	12.790	12.773	7.475	7.475
Switzerland	1.211	1.211	1.211	1.4772	1.4811
US	1.6531	1.6531	1.6531	1.8863	1.8813

INTEREST RATES					
Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year
UK	6.75%				
France	6.75%				
Germany	6.75%				
Italy	6.75%				
Japan	6.75%				
Netherlands	6.75%				
Spain	6.75%				
Sweden	6.75%				
Switzerland	6.75%				
US	6.75%				

BOND YIELDS					
Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year
Australia	4.43	4.02	4.03	4.41	4.03
Canada	3.25	3.20	3.20	3.22	3.04
France	4.70	4.02	4.01	4.02	4.01
Germany	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
Italy	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
Japan	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
Netherlands	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
Spain	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
Sweden	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
Switzerland	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02
US	3.48	3.02	3.02	3.02	3.02

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION					
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest
Long Call	Dec-98	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Short Put	Dec-98	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Long Put	Dec-98	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Short Call	Dec-98	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Long Call	Jan-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Short Put	Jan-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Long Put	Jan-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Short Call	Jan-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Long Call	Feb-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Short Put	Feb-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Long Put	Feb-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00
Short Call	Feb-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	5739.00

INDUSTRIAL METALS					
LME (\$/tonne)	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year	5 year
Aluminium	1273.5	1274	1273.5	1274	1274
Aluminium Alloy	1055	1055	1055	1055	1055
Copper	1487.5	1488.5	1488.5	1488.5	1488.5
Lead	515	516	516	516	516
Nickel	3895	3905	3905	3905	3905
Tin	5365	5375	5375	5375	5375
Zinc	967	968	968	968	968

OTHER SPOT RATES					
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot	D-Mark 3 month
Argentina	1.6531			0.6049	0.6055
Brazil	1.3872			1.6140	1.6144
China	13.683			11.893	11.898
Czech Rep	50.064			34.535	34.442
India	2.6448			1.5374	1.5371
Indonesia	3664.1			6.3666	6.3550
Italy	361.25			1.1714	1.1747
Japan	70.381			5.0886	5.0747
Korea	12.431			5.5111	5.5063
Malaysia	0.4999			1.5711	1.5695
Nigeria	142.41			2.810	2.805

MONEY MARKET RATES					
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
France	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Germany	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Italy	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Japan	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Netherlands	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Spain	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Sweden	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
Switzerland	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	
US	6.32	6.22	6.19	6.09	

ENERGY AT 5:30PM					
Series	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call
Dec-98	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Jan-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Feb-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Mar-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Apr-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
May-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Jun-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Jul-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Aug-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Sep-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Oct-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Nov-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38
Dec-99	117.43	117.73	117.38	117.38	117.38

Soybean		Soybean Meal		Soybean Oil	
LFYF \$/bu	LFYF \$/cwt	LFYF \$/bu	LFYF \$/cwt	CBOT Cents/bush	CBOT \$/bbl
May99 243.00	Dec82 855.00	May99 78.35	Dec82 214.50	May99 23.75	May99 82.60
May99 245.10	Jan99 855.00	May99 80.85	May99 231.75	May99 22.50	May99 86.50
Aug99 245.10	Jan99 868.00	May99 82.85	May99 235.25	May99 22.00	May99 82.60
Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM					
Feb Live Cattle	(CME) \$/lb to	61.83	Dec White Mtnz	(SIF) \$/100 mt	617.00
Feb Soybean	(CME) \$/bu to	41.80	Dec Cracker	(CME) \$/5 kg	84.40
Feb Pork Bellies	(CME) \$/bu to	117.20	Dec Rib	(CME) \$/5 kg	84.40
Dec Corn	(CME) \$/bu to	117.20	Dec Bacon	(CME) \$/5 kg	84.40
Dec Pork	(CME) \$/5 lb to	114.00	Jan Soy Oil	(CBT) \$/bbl to	24.55
Mar Cattle	(CME) \$/5 lb to	114.00	Jan Soy Oil	(CBT) \$/bbl to	24.55
Jan Flax	(MCE) \$/5 lb to	32.00	May Woolen turn	(CME) \$/500kg	116.00



**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Tuesday 8 December 1998

**Liz**

**Pursu**

**more**

**of glo**

**Kuwa**

**THAILAND**

AFTER SOME shocks in the past week, the football tournament at the Asian Games in Bangkok was less sensational when the round began yesterday.

Kuwait established itself as one of the favourites for reaching their Gulf Cup of Arab Emirates. South Korea won the World Cup 2002 in Japan 2-0 in a dull game, defeating champions, Uzbekistan 4-0. Turkmenistan had no trouble in crushing a late scare to earn a 3-2 victory to earn a 3-2 victory against India.

(Uzbekistan have not been...)



# SPORT

European Champions' League: Bayern Munich's World Cup winner switches his sights to success at Old Trafford

## Lizarazu pursues more days of glory

IN MUNICH last Saturday afternoon, the snow was falling hard enough to muffle the sound of the church bells. On the heated surface of FC Bayern's training pitch, small groups of players jogged around the perimeter with varying degrees of enthusiasm, swaddled in gloves and bobbie hats. An hour earlier they had arrived on a delayed flight from Düsseldorf, where they had stayed after the previous night's league match, a 2-2 draw with VfL Bochum. Now, before making their way home, they were having a gentle stretch, maintaining the muscle tone required of players whose schedule involves two top-level matches a week.

Giovane Elber, the Brazilian striker, was the first to reel off his laps and slip away through the snowflakes past a gaggle of fans. A tight-faced Lothar Matthäus led the second group at a pace that was deliberate but still impressive for a man in his 38th year. The remaining bunch circled more slowly still, but included one man who received special cheers each time he passed by from a gaggle of French schoolgirls, on a visit from their home in Lyons.

"Liza! Liza!" they shouted, holding out pens and paper and receiving a cheerful wave in response from the muffled figure. But, for Bixente Lizarazu, the events of July 12 were far away.

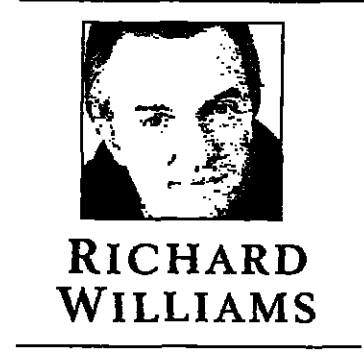
Of all the distinguished players due to participate in tomorrow night's Champions' League showdown between Manchester United and Bayern Munich, Lizarazu is the one who might conceivably be excused for downplaying its importance. At his home in the small town of Hendaye, close to the Spanish border, the vivacious little defender has a freshly minted World Cup winner's medal. But his attitude to its significance is instructive.

"To be champion of the world when you've had the dream for so long," he said, "and to win it in France and to share it with your friends and your family - the emotion was something incredible. You know, in the whole history of France, not just in sport, it was the first time this had happened, with the people going out into the streets of the cities, singing and dancing."

And afterwards, naturally, he went home to celebrate. "There was time then to think about it for a moment, and to enjoy it. But I don't think about it any more because I know I have the videos and the books and newspapers at home, and one day I will have time to look at these things. Now is not the moment."

Now he has other things on his mind. And whereas Emmanuel Petit complained last week of the mental and physical strains experienced by last summer's World Cup stars, Lizarazu has simply set his sights on further trophies.

"I would say that I had no problem of that kind," he said, "because after the World Cup my ambition was to have a very good season with Bay-



RICHARD WILLIAMS

ern. It was easier to forget the title of champion of the world because the objectives for Bayern were very high. Last year we were second in the Bundesliga, and this year we want to be champion. Last year we lost in the quarter-final of the Champions' League and this year we want to do better. So it was not so difficult. Between every match I am thinking about making a good physical regeneration because I know that when you're always playing, if you don't do that you can have problems with injuries. And this season my physical condition is very good."

Which makes a pleasant change for this exceptionally gifted player, whose place in the World Cup squad was in doubt after several seasons disrupted by a deep-seated groin injury. After serving his apprenticeship from the age of 14 with Bordeaux, where he made his reputation and won the first of his 30-odd international caps, a transfer across the border to Athletic Bilbao appeared to represent a perfect move for the young Basque. But the injury wrecked his time



Bixente Lizarazu on the attack from his wing-back position for Bayern Munich this season (above) and (below) grasping the World Cup with his French team-mate Zinedine Zidane

Lilian Thuram breathed new life into the concept of the back four, as long as it received protection from a couple of strong midfield players, such as Didier Deschamps and Petit.

"I prefer a four-man defence," he said. "I think now in modern football it's the best system. Because it's not only the job of four defenders and a goalkeeper. It's the job of those two strong midfield players - and it's also the job of the strikers, who must come back when it's necessary. They too have a defensive role, a little bit. You can't score a lot of goals if all the team don't help, and the defence is exactly the same."

In Germany, the legacy of Franz Beckenbauer, the prince of sweepers, endures - and nowhere more explicitly than at Bayern, where Beckenbauer is now the president. Giovanni Trapattoni, Hitzfeld's predecessor, briefly tried to switch to a back four, but the experiment foundered on the ingrained habits of the German players. "It was impossible. Really. The players were not used to it. For me, it was fine. Perfect. But now I've adapted, and

I'm used to their system, so there's no problem."

In fact, he added, Hitzfeld had also briefly experimented with the back-four system earlier this year, but soon reverted to the old shape. "When the team has a libero and two stoppers, the stoppers can sometimes move laterally when we have the ball, leaving the libero in the middle. But when we play with only two central defenders, they must not go wide, they must stay. But sometimes..." He moved his hands apart, looked at the gap between them, and laughed. "It's funny when you see they are used to playing like this and they cannot change."

Tomorrow night's match at Old Trafford has a similar significance for two clubs who are prone to view the European Cup with a special yearning. Whereas Manchester United won the trophy once, 30 years ago, FC Bayern captured a hat-trick of victories, starting in 1974, with the team that included Beckenbauer, Gerd Müller, Uli Hoessner, Sepp Maier and Paul Breitner. It is a club very conscious of history, and seriously keen on dynasties.

Below Beckenbauer in today's administrative hierarchy come Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, a vice-president; Hoessner, the general manager; Maier, an assistant trainer; and Müller, whom the club helped to recover from alcoholism, now a youth coach.

"Our president wants us to win the trophy," Lizarazu noted. And whereas United need a win to ensure qualification, Bayern require only a point. "Manchester will have to be offensive," Lizarazu said, "so maybe it's easier for us. If they're too defensive, we'll try to use all the space they give us."

In the first match between the clubs, at the Olympiastadion, United were deprived of a win only in the last minute, when Schmeichel failed to intercept Lizarazu's long throw and allowed Elber to equalise with his second goal of the night. "The first match was a little strange, I would say, because we saw a good Manchester in one half and a better Bayern in the second half. So I would say that there was a balance between the teams."

Tomorrow marks Lizarazu's 28th



birthday, and he's hoping for a celebration. "Manchester have a good collective way of playing, offensively. The relationship of Beckenbauer, Yorke and Cole is good - and now they have Giggs back. But after that I think there's some possibility in defence. Sometimes they don't have... what's the word in English, rigueur? Rigour. Discipline. Yes. So that's my way of thinking. Most of the time they score a lot, but in the same way the other team can score, too. So we will try to play thinking of this."

## Houllier hopes Vigo will be complacent

BY GUY HODGSON

WHEN GERARD HOULLIER finished lambasting his team for their defending in Spain two weeks ago, he contrived to salvage a morsel as he sifted through the wreckage of Liverpool's UEFA Cup third-round tie. It was not much, admittedly, but the last resort for a well-beaten team in a two-match contest is to wish complacency on their opponents.

Houllier believed, or more probably hoped, that Celta Vigo's 3-1 victory would lead to over-confidence that could be pricked with a rousing performance at Anfield. Tonight Liverpool need to be the team who can rip apart even the best of defences - their mistake-ridden, careless *alter ego* cannot appear if they are to reach the quarter-finals.

"The positive thing is that we scored, which will be very important in the return leg," Houllier said. "Celta think the game is finished. They think they have gone through. We don't think so. We have a chance."

That chance looks a reasonable one on paper because a 2-0 scoreline is within Liverpool's compass. Celta's defence is prone to flatness, as Michael Owen proved when he put the visitors ahead in Spain, and Anfield can bristle with inhibition-inducing hostility. The question is whether a fragile home defence will be able to nullify an attack which would have put the tie beyond doubt in Vigo but for two outstanding saves from David James. The answer is probably no.

Two of Celta's goals were justly described as "schoolboy errors" by Houllier, and defensive mistakes at this level are usually the product of experience. There was over-anxiety in the Liverpool rearguard that had been put there because Alexander Mostovoi, Mazinho, Valery Karpin and Juan Sanchez had been repeatedly reminding them of their inferiority.

You cannot imagine Liverpool surviving 90 minutes intact tonight against a side who look made to counter. Aston Villa beat Celta 1-0 in Spain and still lost 3-1 at Villa Park in the last round and, unless the home team tonight can create tensions of their own with an early goal, the fear is they will be punished as they are forced to gamble by pressing forward.

Even with a full-strength team it would be a tall order, but Liverpool will be diminished. Jamie Redknapp and Vegard Heggem collected their second yellow cards of the competition in Spain and join Paul Ince and Steve McManaman in being suspended, which will leave Liverpool akin to a set of a Western movie: an impressive front with not very much behind. As Houllier conceded: "It is a mountain to climb."

Leading from that front will be Robbie Fowler, who will be captain for the first time tonight. That might mean little in view of the absences, but it does reflect a growing confidence in him, both in terms of fitness and maturity, at Anfield. The young man who has admitted to irresponsibility in the past is growing up.

## Ferguson in fold to quell Veron

IAN FERGUSON has been given the daunting task of man-marking the Argentinean, Juan Veron, as Rangers attempt to reach the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup in Italy today. The 31-year-old midfielder, with 10 years service at Ibrox under his belt, will try and nullify the Parma player who set up Abel Balbo's goal in the 1-1 draw at Ibrox a fortnight ago - and the Rangers manager, Dick Advocaat, is well aware of the danger he poses going into this third-round second-leg match.

Ferguson has spent most of this season on the bench in the Premier League, but has thrived when given his chance in Europe. Advocaat knows that the player's ball-winning skills and ability to retain possession under pressure could be vital at the Tardini stadium.

The Dutchman will also employ two strikers, certainly Rod Wallace and probably Gordon Durie, as Stéphane Guivarch (ineligible) and Jonatan Johansson (hamstring injury) are both unavailable.

Ferguson's recall to the starting line-up - he was on the bench against Dunfermline on Saturday - will probably mean demotion for Jörg Albertz.

The Italian striker Enrico Chiesa, who missed the first leg because of injury, looks likely to replace Balbo in Parma's starting line-up.

## Kuwait set to challenge Uzbeks for Asian crown

**THAILAND**

AFTER SOME shocks in the opening week, the football tournament at the Asian Games in Bangkok was less sensational when the second round began yesterday.

Kuwait established themselves as one of the favourites for the gold medal with an impressive 5-0 thrashing of their Gulf rivals, United Arab Emirates. South Korea beat their World Cup 2002 co-hosts, Japan, 2-0 in a dull game while the defending champions, Uzbekistan, had no trouble in crushing North Korea 4-0. Turkmenistan survived a late scare to earn a 3-2 win over unfancied India.

Uzbekistan have not been seri-

**AROUND THE WORLD**  
EDITED BY  
RUPERT METCALF

nament debut, show something special when facing more serious opposition, they will lose their crown. Kuwait's performance has lifted them up alongside China, with four Europe-based players in their squad, and Iran as the hot tips.

Japan are not the favourites because they have brought their Under-21 squad, which is preparing for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, to Thailand. They only just beat India in the first round. South Korea, who have sent their senior side, had a dreadful start to the tournament when they lost their opening game to unheralded Turkmenistan, and only reached the second stage thanks to a flattering 4-0 win over Vietnam in their next game.

The hosts, Thailand, are coached by the former England and Aston Villa centre-forward, Peter Withe. They are worth a bet as outsiders, especially as they have relatively easy second-round opponents in Lebanon, Qatar and Kazakhstan.

Sadly, Mongolia went home at the weekend. After losing their opening first-round match 11-0 to Kuwait, they were spotted playing a "friendly" with a giant-sized ball against some elephants in a nearby park. Whether it was just a publicity stunt or a genuine training session was not reported, but it did not do them much good. They were hammered 15-0 by Uzbekistan - a new Games record - in their second and last game on Saturday.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

THE DISMISSAL of the former West Ham and England inside-forward, Johnny "Budge" Byrne, as the coach of Cape Town Spurs was the latest in a series of setbacks for his family's coaching dynasty.

Byrne, his two sons, David and Mark, and his son-in-law Gavin Hunt were all in charge of South African Premier League clubs at the start of the season in August - but the three Byrnes have now lost their jobs. David Byrne was sacked as the coach of struggling Santos last month. Hunt then left his job at relegation-threatened Seven Stars - to take over from his brother-in-law Mark Byrne at Hellenic.

Budge's firing came after his club blew a 3-0 half-time lead over Manning Rangers in Cape Town on Saturday, losing the game 4-3.

**AUSTRALIA**

THERE HAS been dismay Down Under at the news that Australia must win a play-off against South American opposition if they are to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals.

The Australians were beaten by Iran in a play-off for this year's tournament in France. Next time, though, the Oceania winners will face the fifth-placed team in the South American group. The former team captain, Paul Wade, called the decision a "slap in the face".







# Thorpe back in back trouble

THE RECURRING back problems that Graham Thorpe has endured since March have effectively ruled him out of the third Test in Adelaide, which begins on Friday. Batting in England's second innings against Victoria, Thorpe had managed just one run in 40 minutes before he retired hurt, a move that provoked yet more speculation over his short-term future as a player.

The setback is one England could well have done without before what is potentially the most important Test series. Averaging 83 on this tour, and 48.5 in all Tests against Australia, Thorpe is arguably the most essential ingredient in England's batting line-up.

But if players cannot always guarantee their form, their fitness has to be taken as read. In fact, no side can afford to risk a player, no matter how good, if he alternates between rock and crack on a daily basis, and England clearly risked Thorpe here, perhaps unwisely, in order to find that out sooner rather than later.

Thorpe, who missed the second Test in Perth with back problems, was apparently criticised before his innings began. One of England's most accomplished batsmen, the Surrey left-hander had managed just a single run in 29 balls when he summited the England physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, on to the pitch at a drinks break.

Following a brief conversation with Morton, Thorpe decided to retire, passing his captain, Alec Stewart, as he made the long, disconsolate trudge back to the pavilion.

Graham felt the stiffness began about 20 minutes before he was batted," Morton said. "The area of pain is in a broad band across his lower back, and it prevented him from transferring his weight, which in turn

## CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
in Melbourne

England 373 & 207-5  
Victoria 300

limited his movement at the crease.

"Locked up" were the words the England manager, Graham Gooch, used to describe it, though, in an attempt to be upbeat, the tour authorities claimed they would not be rushed into a decision.

"We knew Graham's back was a risk from the day we brought him out," Morton explained. In fact, the rehabilitation programme, since the surgery he had in August to remove a cyst from a facet joint, had been going pretty well.

"Indeed, everything was fine until the last fortnight, which has been disappointing for him, and we shall wait for it to settle before reassessing the situation."

Backs can be fickle things and Thorpe's has been playing up since last March, when he came home early from the one-day series in the West Indies. Despite rest, it "went" again at the start of the season, causing him to withdraw from the Texaco series against South Africa. He also withdrew from the Test series after the third Test at Old Trafford, where his back condition contributed heavily to his pair of ducks.

But if many feel the prognosis is bleak, Thorpe himself is confident of making a recovery. His encounter with a back specialist in Perth - apparently the first person Thorpe feels has properly understood his condition - has given him hope, at least in the medium term.

Coming 70 minutes from the end of the play, Thorpe's retirement spoiled an otherwise decent day for England. Having



Watched by his concerned team-mates, Darren Gough and John Crawley, England's Graham Thorpe retires hurt yesterday

# Depleted Vikings too strong for Bears

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY NICK HALLING

THE MINNESOTA Vikings remain on course for an appearance in next month's Super Bowl following their emphatic 49-22 demolition of the Chicago Bears. Nothing remarkable about beating the toothless Bears, but the points total, Minnesota's greatest in 10 years, was achieved without their first-choice quarterback, running back, and both starting wide receivers.

Already deprived of former London Monarch passer Brad Johnson, running back Robert Smith, and Jake Reed, the Vikings lost the veteran receiver Cris Carter in pre-game warm-ups, when he strained his right calf muscle.

The Vikings simply did not miss any of them. Led by the quarterback Randall Cunningham, an outstanding deputy for the often-injured Johnson, the Vikings owed their success to three more touchdowns from the rookie receiver Randy Moss, and a pair of scores from Smith's replacement, Leroy Hoard.

The Vikings have now scored a league-high 442 points this season, coincidentally smashing the existing franchise record with three games left to play. Other personal highs have followed: Moss has 14 touchdowns, a league record, while Cunningham has thrown four touchdowns in a game on four separate occasions, a team record, and has 37 for the season.

Even the kicker, Gary Anderson, is in on the act. Having successfully converted 28 of his field goal attempts in succession, the veteran South African is just three kicks away from establishing a new NFL record. With 12 wins from their 13 appearances to date, the Vikings have clinched the NFC Central division, and are looking unstoppable.

"If you had told us before the season that at some point we'd lose our starting quarterback, running back and both starting receivers, and we'd be 12-1, I would never have believed it possible," said Cunningham.

With each victory, the Vikings enhance their claims for Super Bowl legitimacy. The same can be said for the defending champions, the Denver Broncos, who remain unbeaten following a 35-31 triumph over the Kansas City Chiefs.

bowled Victoria out for 300, they batted positively to finish 279 runs ahead at the close.

Apart from Thorpe, Michael Atherton was the only batsman who did not get going, despite getting off the mark with a flashing cut for four to backward cover. A cussed fellow who has fallen several times this tour to the hook shot, Atherton has none the less insisted on playing it. He did so again on here and with the same sorry outcome.

If the truth be known, he probably considered himself a tad unlucky, and the top edge of Brad Williams would have gone for six on most grounds. Unfortunately for Atherton, the MCG has one of the largest playing areas anywhere and the ball was held a yard inside the rope, albeit by a superb tumbling catch by Matthew Innes.

Although he did not know it until towards the end of his innings, Thorpe's injury will have

given John Crawley's so far subdued tour new impetus.

Crawley, his footwork shot, looked a mess in Perth, and he fell well behind Graeme Hick in the pecking order for Adelaide. But if he once again began scratchily, some of the old fluency began to return once he had reached fifty.

Mind you, he should have been run out on 59, following a mix-up with Alec Stewart, after the pair ran a leg bye. Having already been involved in a run-out with Nasser Hussain - a hairline decision decided by the third umpire after several inconclusive replays - Crawley was fortunate that the replay

equipment went on the bleep. Indeed, as far as the naked eye could discern - although the umpire was strangely reticent to use his - the direct hit from Brad Hodge looked to have found him well short of his ground.

Crawley, like Stewart and Mark Ramprakash after him, eventually perished trying to accelerate the score, though he fell to leg-spin, rather than the towering medium pace of Ashley Gilbert, a lumbering 6ft 10in beano. Like the "albino", Michael Gross, Gilbert looks as if water might be a more suitable habitat.

With the Australian selectors recalling Stuart MacGill in place of Mike Kasprowicz, leg-spinners are a topical subject. England, too, are using them, and Chris Schofield, Lancashire's young leggy currently playing in Melbourne, will travel with the team to Adelaide as a net bowler, presumably in

order to reacquaint England's batsmen with the subtleties of wrist spin.

Earlier yesterday, the second new ball helped to end some annoying resistance from the Victorian tail, whose last five wickets added 213 runs. In case the selectors missed it on day two, Dean Headley gave them another nudge, taking 5 for 58 as Victoria were bowled out in their first innings for 300, a total that owed much to the left-hander Shawn Craig, unbeaten on 83, and the wicketkeeper, Peter Roach.

If England decide to go into the next Test with four seamers, as they did in Perth, rather than with three pace bowlers and a spinner, it is Headley who has edged ahead in the reckoning in front of both Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork. But whoever takes up the fourth bowling place, it is Thorpe who is likely to be missed most.

MCG SCOREBOARD	
Third day of four: England won toss	
ENGLAND - First Innings 373 (A J Stewart 126, M R Ramprakash 76, G A Hick 67)	
VICTORIA - First Innings (Overnight: 177 for 5)	
SA J Craig not out	83
SA J Roach c Ramprakash	1
SA Headley	80
SA J Davidson c Ramprakash	42
SA B Croft	42
SA A Williams c Headley b Croft	1
SA S Gilbert bow b Headley	1
SA MWH Innes c Hick b Headley	3
SA Extras (b6, nb21)	27
Total (106.1 overs)	300
Bowling: Williams 10-5-14-1, Gilbert 13-5-44-2, Innes 8-2-22-0, Mac 1-0-5-0, Davidson 19-3-79-0, Craig 6-0-32-1, Umpires: T A Pugh and G T D Morrow	

# Test call for Gibbs as teams are ordered to add colour

THE RACIAL make-up of South Africa's team yesterday overshadowed preparations for Thursday's second Test against the West Indies.

"We will put blacks in your team" ran the banner headline in The Star newspaper after the decision by the United Cricket Board of South Africa to make the presence of players of colour in provincial teams mandatory from next season.

At the same time, the South African selectors recalled Herschelle Gibbs - a non-white player - to the squad to face the West Indies in Port Elizabeth - the only change to the 12 who won the opening Test by four wickets in Johannesburg. Gibbs has replaced Adam Bacher and is set to open the batting despite having appeared in the middle order for

Western Province for most of his first-class career.

Gibbs' call-up forced the 24-year-old opener to enter the debate and defend his selection. "If I was the parent of a Test hopeful, I certainly wouldn't feel happy if my son was selected to represent his country simply because he is a person of colour," he said.

The ruling on provincial teams and Gibbs' recall reflected the racial and political undertones that still persist in sport after decades of apartheid. The selection of cricket and rugby international players in the Springboks has become a charged political issue with critics arguing against "racial quotas" in sports, while opponents say it is vital that teams more accurately reflect the country's 87 per cent non-white make-up.

The UCB's ruling on provincial teams followed statements by the ruling African National Congress, who denounced "illegitimate" teams, and the sports minister, Steve Tshwete, who said he was fed up with the lack of progress on this issue.

South Africa's sports control body, the National Sports Council, denounced the UCB's move as too little too late and vowed it would enforce the inclusion of black players.

"There is a concerted effort to keep black players from representing the country at the senior level. We cannot fold our arms while black players are deliberately kept out of cricket," Muleki George, the NSC pres-

ident, said. Tshwete was also reported to have warned the selectors not to pick an "all-white" team for the Port Elizabeth Test as it had for the opening Test. The five-match series is the first post-apartheid tour by the West Indies.

Under the new ruling, provinces that do not have enough skilled black cricketers will be able to select from a pool of players to be introduced by the UCB.

In future, if the national selectors are unable to name black players in a squad or team due to form or injury, the selection will be referred to a UCB committee who will have the power to order the selectors to include players of colour.

SOUTH AFRICA (Second Test v West Indies, Port Elizabeth, Thursday): G Kirsten, H Gibbs, J Kallis, D Cullinan, Cronje (capt), J Rhodes, S Pollock, M Boucher (wk), P Symcox, A Donald, P Adams, D Trottage.

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# Itchy and Scratchy suggest tough Boat Race for Oxford

CAMBRIDGE, BIDDING to see out the century with a seventh consecutive Boat Race victory on April 3, 1999, threw down the gauntlet to Oxford with a fast Trial Eight race on London's Tideway yesterday.

The crews, dubbed Scratchy and Itchy, looked stern-heavy with the prospective Blue Boat divided equally among them.

The Canadian president, Brad Crombie, a winner in light blue in 1997 and 1998, put himself at number seven in Itchy behind last year's Goldie man Richard Stokes, with the British under-23 international Kieran West at six and the American David Ellis at five.

Opposing them in Scratchy were the other two surviving

Blues, Graham Smith and the 6ft 7in Toby Wallace at seven and five. They were matched on the stroke side by Tom Stallard and the German under-23 international, Tim Wooge, who developed his rowing at Northeastern University in Boston, United States.

Taking the Middlesex station, Itchy were quicker off the start and by London Rowing Club had snatched a length. In spite of hanging close to the Fulham Wall, Itchy continued to move away, assisted by Scratchy following them into the dead water. As the crews

settled into a rhythm with Itchy gradually drawing ahead, Scratchy still looked the longer and steadier.

Stallard, his hair patch-dyed to suggest a leopard, gave a chunky, hard-hitting lead backed by the experienced international Graham Smith.

After a warning from the umpire, John Garrett, at the Black Buoy, the crews separated and raced wide apart across the Fulham Flats with Itchy only able to exploit the inside of the bend because Scratchy chose to play follow my leader into the slow, shallow water.

After the Mile Post, Scratchy had a chance to come back on terms as Itchy moved across to the Harrods Pier. The two

crews rowed in line astern to Hammersmith Bridge.

Here Stallard put in a couple of pushes and his crew, still looking longer and stronger, forced a flurry of bursts from Stokes and his Itchy crew. After the bridge Scratchy appeared to be shortening the gap of open water to less than a length when their cox, Christopher Wren, veered towards St Paul's School and Itchy, at last in the proper water, was able to break contact.

By the Cheswick Eyot it was all over. Itchy rowed away to win by 15 seconds in 17 min 11sec, fast in the conditions and very fast considering how little time both teams had spent in the mainstream.

## FONTWELL

**HYPERION**  
Dangerous Precident 1.10 Gray Pastel  
1.40 Mr Bojangles 2.10 Keen Dancer 2.40  
Knight Templar 3.10 Treasure Chest 3.40  
Fountain Bid

**GOING:** Good  
Left-hand hurdle course, figure-of-eight course. Tight circuit, not suitable for long-striding horses.  
Course is S of village rd junction of A22, Barnham station (Barnham, Portsmouth line) 2m. Admissions: Club £5; Visitors £3 (accompanied under-16s free); Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: Phone area 24 plus £5 for each occupant remainder free.

**LEADING TRAINERS:** P. Nicholls 24-52 (46.2%), M. Pipe 24-55 (23.2%), J. Gifford 19-25 (15.2%), R. Buckler 16-77 (23.4%).  
**LEADING JOCKEYS:** A. P. McCoy 57-68 (54.5%), P. H. Redford 19-74 (15.7%), R. D. Murphy 16-77 (20.8%), A. McGuire 15-51 (15.5%).  
**FAVOURITES:** 210-505 (34.4%).  
**BLINKER FIRST TIME:** Gray Pastel (10), Plinth (10), Macchivella (2).

**2.40 YAPTON HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I)**  
£3,000 added 3YO 2m 21 fms  
1. 210 DANGEROUS PRECIDENT (7) C. Egan 11-12 D. Gallagher  
BELGRADE (19) J. Patten 10-12 J. Goldstein (9)  
2. 04 DANIEL TREASURES (10) S. Moore 10-12 J. Hagg  
HELMAS (15) M. Hynes 10-12 C. Maude  
3. 4 ROBERTSON (17) J. Aherne 10-12 J. L. Harvey  
4. 04 CALADONIAN (18) C. Egan 10-12 J. L. Harvey  
5. 04 LITTLE ELEANOR (18) M. Hynes 10-12 J. L. Harvey  
6. 04 SASSY (22) B. Mahon 10-12 J. L. Harvey  
7. 04 SYMPHONY (24) M. Hynes 10-12 J. L. Harvey  
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£4,000 added 2m 21 fms  
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**1.40 NORFOLK NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E)**  
£4,500 added 2m 2f  
1. 04-11 NO PATTERNS (



# England on the right route at last

IT MAY not be a glittering prize on the scale of the Webb Ellis Trophy or even the Cook Cup, but at least Clive Woodward can claim to be the proud owner of the shortest-lived nickname in sporting history. Clive Woodward, indeed, the England coach may have taken a few scenic routes over the past 15 months, even headed the wrong way down the odd one-way Parisian boulevard and disappeared up the occasional Cape Town cul-de-sac, but he always had a clear idea of his destination. Now that his players have pointed themselves in the same direction, the world is his isotonic oyster.

For all his apparent madcapery, Woodward has created an entirely new national side from the unpromising piles of rubble dotted

around Sydney after last year's pasting by the Wallabies. What is more, he has done it by flying in the face of selectorial orthodoxy and backing his own instincts, rather than playing safe.

Woodward is remarkably consistent in his inconsistency; after all, if form and fitness are a coach's only yardsticks, true consistency cannot be an option. His unapologetically imaginative approach has allowed him to ape the Australians, for whom he has huge respect, in fast-tracking young talent through the thick stodge that passes for the English "system". Matt Perry, David Rees, Dan Luger, Phil Vickery and Danny Grewcock (only two of whom participated in Saturday's successful exercise in Bok-bashing) are all putative members of

**Victory over the South African world champions indicates that Woodward's grand plan is falling into place. By Chris Hewett**

next year's World Cup squad. Would Jack Rowell have favoured them so swiftly? Hardly.

Add to this the successful re-casting of some more experienced Test acts - Tim Rodber from No 8 to lock, Richard Hill from open-side specialist to back-row Proteus, Matt Dawson from non-kicker to golden boot - and the Woodward critics, out in force last Saturday morning and back in hiding by Saturday night, are suddenly confronted by a small but cleverly constructed wall of solid progress. Some experiments may have left the coach with a six-

inch layer of carbon on his face, but others have significantly advanced the England cause.

Of course, one victory over a weary South African side does not bestow World Cup legitimacy on a hit-or-miss contender, although it is reasonable to predict that the Murdoch-financed grind of Super 12 and Tri-Nations will leave the Boks every bit as knackered next autumn as they appeared during this most recent foray north of the equator. Woodward still needs to think through his options at half-back - on a bad day, Dawson and Mike Catt are

more likely to be away with the fairies than away down the touchline - and to conduct some further investigations on the goal-kicking front. All coaches wax lyrical about try-scoring potential, but as the Wallabies proved at Twickenham 10 days ago, successful penalties win the points that win the prizes.

Yet it is impossible to exaggerate the significance of last Saturday's victory to a promising side in dire need of reassurance. Unlike last season, when their reward for staying the distance with the All Blacks was a perilous trip to Paris, they play

their next game, against Scotland, on their own mudheap, by which time Will Greenwood should be back alongside Jeremy Guscott in midfield and Woodward should be in a position to run Perry, Rees and Luger together for the first time. The French must also come to Twickenham, so the cards really have fallen face up.

"The thing about this team," mused the coach on Saturday night, "is that when they are together for a reasonable period of time, they get better week on week. It happened last year, when we completed a four-week stint by drawing with New Zealand, and it's happened again this time. It's no coincidence, no accident of circumstance. Ask any southern hemisphere coach about the impor-

ance of time spent together and they will give you a one-word answer: crucial. We're still miles behind the south in terms of structure, but at least I'll have the squad for a full month before the World Cup."

If England can go from dire (against Italy) and naive (against Australia) to beating the world champions in the space of three short weeks, the shape of the forthcoming schedule - four weeks together in Australia this summer, September in purdah before the World Cup and a maximum of five weeks in each other's pockets during the tournament proper - suggests they might be capable of anything. At the moment, Woodward looks about as wayward as Steve "Interesting" Davis on a quiet day.

**Varsity match: Giant Antipodeans and US forward are among today's 20-strong foreign legion. David Llewellyn reports**

## Blues Brothers relish thrill of the big occasion

THE INNES boys are big. They are Australian with strong Scottish lineage. They are up at Cambridge University reading social and political sciences and today they will pack down together in the second row to lock the Light Blues' scrum.

Angus, the elder by 13 months, rattles the scales at 17.5st; Hamish, at 6ft 6in, is half an inch taller and a pound of prime Aussie fillet lighter, although he is still on the large side of huge.

Hamish, 26 and a qualified solicitor who works for the Department of Justice in Queensland, is taking a sabbatical to further his professional education. "Government policy is a big area of my job and this course linked in very well with my work," he says. "I wouldn't say I was particularly interested in politics but you can't help but get involved when you are dealing with issues at the department. My employers have given me two years off and I am very happy."

he was proving something of a Corinthian, having rowed for Australia in the coxed fours in the Junior World Championships in Hungary in 1989. These days Angus's boating skills are put to more practical use as a lifeguard, which involves handling rubber dinghies with powerful outboard motors - dubbed "rubber ducks" - although there is still time for him to row in the surf boat championships as well.

Hamish also goes surfboating and he, too, is a lifeguard. Since part of their father's family is to be found in the Western Isles there is a natural progression in this interest. But right now all thoughts of sand, surf and fun have been beached.

Today is the big one. "Playing in something like this is just tremendous," says Hamish. "I've watched the Varsity match many times on television, but to be a part of it is unbelievable."

*"I certainly don't feel protective towards him just because he is my brother - he's big enough to take care of himself"*

Angus watched last year's Blues beano - the then Cambridge captain, Tom Murphy, is a friend of the Innes brothers and was influential in persuading both of them to head for the university. And after the experience at Twickenham last year Angus says: "I thought to myself 'Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?'"

So here he is. And his brother: "I very much enjoy playing with Hamish. We have learned the intricacies of each other's game and I suppose it adds a spur when you are playing with family, or someone you are very close to. I certainly don't feel protective towards him because he is my younger brother. He is big enough these days to take of himself."

Hamish is equally proud to be winning his first Blue and adds: "Doing this with my brother is just fabulous. He is a very inspirational bloke and you can't help but get buzzed up when your brother is beside you the whole time."

Stand by for the Blues Brothers.



Angus (front) and Hamish Innes, brothers in arms at the Light Blues line-out Peter Jay

## Russell is ready to live out an American dream

HAPPENSTANCE IS what brought Adam Russell and his pony-tail across the Atlantic from the United States to Oxford University two years ago, and accident has appeared to have dogged him for his subsequent rugby career.

If the genial anthropology undergraduate is to be believed he would have gone to Cambridge by choice. "At Oxford the anthropology department is not what I was looking for. Cambridge has a very good department, one that is willing to take risks; Oxford is not famous for that sort of thing. But in fact I probably would have gone to California." And why didn't he? "Simply because I won the Rhodes Scholarship."

And having dabbled for a couple of years in Stateside rugby ("It's more of a social event in the States," he reckons), Russell decided to have a crack at the game for his college, Magdalen. So effective was he at flinging around his 6ft 11in, 18st frame that he immediately made it into the University second string side. The Greyhounds.

Unbeknown to him he suffered a stress fracture in that match. The very next game the strain proved too much and Russell suffered a full-blown fracture.

"I blame peer pressure," claims Russell. "After that first match my team-mates all said I was a poofah with my long hair, and since it was not any kind of statement I had it cut off. Breaking my leg in the following match brought to mind the Old Testament and Samson and so I grew it again."

The complications that arose from that unfortunate break saw Russell in a hip-long plaster cast for months. The inactivity took its toll on his muscles and surrounding soft

tissue and unpleasant complications arose. "The muscles start to atrophy as a result of being laid up," explains Russell, "and if you try to come back too quickly you suffer this particular syndrome where the soft tissue is damaged."

In short he was in agony. "It was mind-numbing," he recalls. "The pain was as near to childbirth as I will ever be. Every day was just more parturition pain." Surgery was the only answer and Russell had a series of operations on both legs, putting him out of action for the best part of a year, only playing his comeback game late last spring, too late for last year's Varsity match.

He has since spent a lot of time working on his game with the coach, Steve Hill.

"I think my progress has surprised people," he says. "I am hugely excited about the match. And nervous. I'd be a fool not to be. That is going to provide the adrenalin that makes the hits a little bigger, runs a little quicker. I am probably not the fastest guy on the team. Not the fittest either. But I get there."

"There will be a full house at Twickenham but that will not bother me. I will be able to shut that out. What matters to me is that there are 14 other guys on the team and I don't want to let them down."

He is not even worried about his pony-tail attracting unwanted attention from the opposition. He wears a scrum cap but admits: "It pokes out at the back."

More to the point, his team-mates insist he has signed a provocative declaration. "I have no recollection of doing any such thing," declares Russell, "but the word is that if we win the Varsity match I will let them cut my hair again. They will have to pin me down to do it!"



Russell: Broke leg

## Morrow quietly anticipates upsetting odds

THE PITY of it is that amid a babble of Antipodean draws in the Twickenham dressing-rooms today the voice of Robin Morrow is unlikely to be raised loud enough to be heard, writes David Llewellyn. He will be relying on Cambridge step out for the 117th Varsity Match against Oxford looking to lift the Bowring Bowl for a record-equaling fifth successive time.

Morrow, an Ulsterman from Dunganannon, is not able to open his mouth that wide because in the

build-up to the big one he suffered a fracture to his lower jaw and lost three teeth. His dentist - the Cambridge prop Christopher Hart - has rigged a temporary splint with wire and some old dentures, which will have to do until there is time to construct a proper bridge.

"I had to eat soup for a week," said Morrow, who is doing a post-graduate Certificate of Education in chemistry at Hughes Hall. "It happened against Richmond about a month ago. I ran into a guy's forehead. I wasn't concussed." But he is cussed.

Most people would not want to risk playing again, certainly not with a temporary splint. However, the 24-year-old Morrow, who plays at full-back, is made of sterner stuff. "There's a fair chance that the splint will come off in the match," he said, "but if that happens I will just hand it over to the coach and play on. It means I will have to wear a bottom gumshield as well as the usual one, but it will be worth it."

Despite looking for the record - of the 116 matches played, Oxford

have 48 wins to Cambridge's 55 - it is Oxford, with their better organised pack, who are favourites. "This is the strongest side in my three years at Oxford," the coach, Steve Hill, said, "and if we play to pre-Twickenham form we should win."

Hill's opposite number, Tony Rodgers, has an extra burden to bear, besides that record. The Light Blues' hooker is his son, Stefan. Rodgers is guardedly pessimistic and fears defeat, although he said: "Oxford may be favourites, but we have some big strong guys."

Almost 65,000 supporters are expected to pack into the ground today where they will see a total of 20 non-English players (10 on each side) battling it out in one of the last of the amateur bouts in the game.

"The biggest crowd I have played in front of is 12,000 when Ulster played the Australians at Ravenhill," Morrow said. "I am trying not to get too excited. I have the Varsity match every year on television when it has always been just another match."

Not any more, though.

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE			
at Twickenham			
R Woodfine	St Edmund Hall 15	R Morrow	Hughes Hall
N Booth	Worcester 14	A Bidwell	Hughes Hall
N Ashley	University 13	M Robinson	Hughes Hall
K Shuman	Templeton 12	M Denney	St Edmund's House
N Humphries	St Anne's 11	S Lippett	Corpus Christi
R Governey	St Edmund Hall 10	P Moran	Hughes Hall
S Barry	St Cross 9	G Peacocke	Hughes Hall
A Collins	Lincoln 9	M Foulkes	Sidney Sussex, capt
P O'Connor	St Edmund Hall 8	S Rodgers	Homerton
A Reuben	University 7	C Hart	Hughes Hall
A Roberts	New College 4	A Innes	Hughes Hall
A Russell	Magdalen 4	H Innes	Hughes Hall
N Celliers	Keble 6	O Slack	S Edmund's House
D Nelaier	St Cross, capt 7	M Hastie	St Catherine's
N Challenger	St Anne's 8	H Whitford	Hughes Hall

Replacements: 16 R Bailey (St Edmund's); 17 M S. Lister (Queens); 18 T. H. H. (Queens); 19 M. C. (Queens); 20 T. D. (Queens); 21 C. P. (Queens); 22 J. R. (Queens); 23 B. R. (Queens); 24 M. B. (Queens); 25 M. B. (Queens); 26 M. B. (Queens); 27 M. B. (Queens); 28 M. B. (Queens); 29 M. B. (Queens); 30 M. B. (Queens); 31 M. B. (Queens); 32 M. B. (Queens); 33 M. B. (Queens); 34 M. B. (Queens); 35 M. B. (Queens); 36 M. B. (Queens); 37 M. B. (Queens); 38 M. B. (Queens); 39 M. B. (Queens); 40 M. B. (Queens); 41 M. B. (Queens); 42 M. B. (Queens); 43 M. B. (Queens); 44 M. B. (Queens); 45 M. B. (Queens); 46 M. B. (Queens); 47 M. B. (Queens); 48 M. B. (Queens); 49 M. B. (Queens); 50 M. B. (Queens); 51 M. B. (Queens); 52 M. B. (Queens); 53 M. B. (Queens); 54 M. B. (Queens); 55 M. B. (Queens); 56 M. B. (Queens); 57 M. B. (Queens); 58 M. B. (Queens); 59 M. B. (Queens); 60 M. B. (Queens); 61 M. B. (Queens); 62 M. B. (Queens); 63 M. B. (Queens); 64 M. B. (Queens); 65 M. B. (Queens); 66 M. B. 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# Cooke's exit is blow for Bedford

GEORGE COOKE, the former England and Lions manager, has walked away from the game for the second time in five years after resigning as chief executive of the financially troubled League One club, Bedford.

When the 57-year-old Cumbrian resigned from a successful England side in February 1994 it took the rugby world by surprise. He had managed the 1993 Lions and turned England's fortunes around. His Test record ended with 35 wins, one draw and 13 defeats from 49 games.

However, yesterday's decision was less of a surprise and a possibility all season once the club, which has won only two matches this season and is owned by Frank Warren, ran into financial problems following the boxing promoter's complex legal wrangle with Don King.

In September, the coach, Paul Turner, resigned, and rugby director Cooke - just two years into the job - admitted: "I have had to dust down an old tracksuit and get on the training pitch."

He stressed the club's limited cash base by saying: "And we won't be appointing a new coach or buying new players. There is no scope for that."

It is likely that the former Springbok Rudi Straeuli, who

## RUGBY UNION

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

has undertaken more coaching after curtailing his playing role in recent weeks, will assume fuller responsibility.

The players and staff have received salaries late and, although the Warren-King issue is expected to come before the courts next month, it is too late for Cooke, and his departure implies more money problems for the staff.

Cooke, who first appointed Will Carling as England captain in 1988 and shared two Grand Slams with him in 1991 and 1992, was upset with the latest Bedford developments. "I am bitterly disappointed at the circumstances that have produced this outcome," he said.

"The players and other staff have worked hard over the past two years to help Bedford rise from the depths of League Two to achieve Premiership status, and I am very sad that my association with the club should end in this way."

Warren acknowledged the inevitability of Cooke's exit, stating: "I am disappointed but appreciate Geoff's position."

An announcement about a chief executive will be made later this week, Warren said.



Lazio's Marcelo Salas surges past Juventus defenders Angelo Di Livio and Marc Juliano in the Rome side's 1-0 victory on Sunday

# Italian magistrate investigates 'suspect deaths' of 45 players

AN ITALIAN investigating magistrate has opened an inquiry into the "suspect deaths" of 45 former footballers to find out if their deaths could be related to substances consumed during their sporting careers.

Raffaello Guariniello, who is heading the doping investigation that has caused a furore in Italian football, has acquired the medical records of many players who died young of mysterious causes or strange diseases. The "suspect deaths" include Renato Curci, who dropped dead on the field from heart failure during a Perugia-Juventus match in 1977, Andrea Fortunato (Juventus), who died of leukaemia, as did the 38-year-old Bruno Beatrice and former Italian international Guido Vicenzi, who died last year as the result of a rare form of muscular degeneration.

Others on the list are the 30-year-old Enrico Cucchi (In-

## FOOTBALL

BY FRANCIS KENNEDY  
in Rome

ternazionale and Fiorentina) and the 49-year-old Bruno Mora (Juventus and Milan), who both died of stomach tumours.

Among the judicial hypotheses Mr Guariniello is pursuing is manslaughter against those who administered substances that may have led to a premature death. The inquiry is expected to take two or three years and is made difficult by the fact that the Italian football federation archives are incomplete.

As well as obtaining medical records on the deceased, Guariniello is also seeking scientific data on former players who are now suffering from serious illnesses or injuries that could in some way be linked to illegal substances.

News that Guariniello was

going beyond the grave in his search for sporting abuses has received a mixed reaction in the football world. In an outspoken interview with the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera*, 50-year-old Carlo Petrini, who played for Genoa, Milan, Bologna and Roma in the 1960s and '70s, said that what went on in his day made creatine and growth hormones seem like boiled sweets.

Petrini said it began when he played for Genoa in 1965. "The team wasn't doing well, so players were administered 'regenerating' injections," Petrini said. "I don't know what the substance was, it was bright red. We accepted the jabs during the week and before each match, for the good of Genoa."

Petrini said they used bathtubs with double pockets containing samples of non-played urine, which they squirted into the collection tubes.

Mr Guariniello's inquiry was

triggered by comments made by the Roma coach, Zdenek Zeman, last July. He expressed surprise at the speedy muscle development of two Juventus players, Alessandro Del Piero and Gianluca Vialli, and intimated that substance abuse was widespread in Serie A.

The probe at first focused on the use of creatine, a natural performance enhancer, but soon widened.

The Turin-based magistrate has questioned countless players, including Inter's Brazilian striker Ronaldo, on training and locker-room practices and medical treatments. Coaches, club managers and team doctors have also been called in. Even Diego Maradona, who was suspended from Serie A after testing positive for cocaine in 1991, was interviewed on a visit to Italy last month.

The inquiry revealed that the anti-doping procedures of the

Roma laboratory, run by CONI, the Italian Olympic Committee, which oversees all sport, were woefully inadequate. Most of the staff resigned, the centre was closed and since then testing has been carried out at an IOC lab in Switzerland.

CONI chiefs and the heads of the football league and federation attempted to lay the blame solely with sporting doctors, but in the face of public outrage the CONI president, Mario Pescante, stepped down.

The sports doctor Bernd Pansold was convicted and fined by a Berlin court yesterday as the first trial to put former East Germany's systematic doping policy under the spotlight came to an end. Pansold, the last of six officials of the swimming section of Berlin club SC Dynamo to be judged, was handed a 14,400 marks (£5,320) fine and will have to pay court costs likely to be several times that sum.

# Celtic told to pay £3m Viduka fee now

THE FUTURE of Celtic's run-away striker Marko Viduka remained shrouded in mystery yesterday, as the Scottish champions were warned to pay the £3m transfer fee to Croatia Zagreb for the player or face the consequences.

The Parkhead club's managing director, Fergus McCann, is currently taking legal advice over whether his club are obliged to pay the full fee after the Australian's disappearing act at the weekend. They are considering suing the player after he rejected Celtic's overtures to stay in Glasgow and returned to Zagreb complaining of depression and a need to rest.

The Croatia Zagreb president, Zlatko Janjuga, yesterday insisted he was expecting the full amount negotiated for Viduka's transfer in the next 24 hours. The player's Australian adviser, Bernie Mandic, said the striker is suffering from emotional burn-out. He suggested any Parkhead return will depend on how sympathetic the club are to his plight.

"At this point he has no desire to play on," Mandic said. "It depends on Celtic now - they have the final say. It depends on how understanding they are. He doesn't want to commit himself to any timescale - whether it be one week, five weeks or five months."

Croatian sources insist Viduka is fully aware of the consequences of his actions and believe he is unlikely to rush home to Australia at the moment while he considers his future. There are already claims that part of Viduka's dissatisfaction is connected to not receiving a percentage of the transfer fee from Celtic.

His former club, Melbourne Knights, are also awaiting developments with interest, given that they are understood to be due 10 per cent of future transfer fees involving the player.

The Celtic coach, Jozef Venglos, was as bemused as anyone yesterday about Viduka's extraordinary about-turn five days after arriving in Glasgow. "It is a sad situation," he said. "The club did everything they could for him, and that was correct."

The Coventry chairman, Bryan Richardson, could face a Football Association misconduct charge over his verbal attack on the referee, Steve Dunn, after Saturday's Premiership defeat at Wimbledon. Dunn said yesterday that he had included Richardson's comments in his report to Lancaster Gate after he had been confronted in the dressing-room at Selhurst Park after Coventry's 2-1 defeat.

# Virenque quits over Festina drug claims

STILL MAINTAINING that he never took banned drugs, Richard Virenque says he will resign from cycling because the doping scandals overshadowing the sport are preventing him from finding a new team.

Virenque, 29, has been unable to find a team since last month's decision by Festina to break with the cyclist. On Sunday he issued a statement saying that he would be quitting the sport.

"He (Virenque) has the impression that he is leaving a job unfinished and he wants to go to his supporters. He

## CYCLING

would like to keep making time for his family, but it is not possible anymore," said the statement by Virenque, issued in the third person.

"You can't beat a whole army of journalists who only want one thing, for him to stop," his wife, Stephanie Virenque, told Europe 1 radio. "Today, we are unfortunately obliged to tell them that they have won."

But she added that if another team were to offer Virenque a contract, he would be back in the saddle.

# Manchester maintain advantage

MANCHESTER STORM still lead the Sekonda Superleague by six points after a 3-2 win over Nottingham Panthers. Cardiff Devils stay in second place after beating London Knights 8-0, while Bracknell Bees made it five wins in six games against Newcastle Riverkings.

After a goalless first period in Manchester the Panthers, boosted by their win in the Benson and Hedges cup final the previous night, took a 2-0 lead through Jarret Zukowsky

## ICE HOCKEY

and Simon Hunt before Kelly Askew put the leaders back in the game. Askew scored to send the match into overtime and after 3min 57sec Brad Rubachuk grabbed the winner.

Ian McIntyre scored first for Cardiff Devils and goals from Vezio Sacratini, Steve Thornton and Peter Elroth added to the lead. Sacratini scored in the final session, along with Kip Peter Noble,

Ivan Matulic and Mario Simion.

Dennis Chasse scored first for Bracknell Bees at home to Riverkings. Chris Brant and Rob Stewart scored in the first period and Riverkings replied through Mike Bodnarchuk and Rob Trumbley. Bees led further in the second when Chasse and Darren McAusland traded goals before Brant and Sal Manganaro wrapped it up, despite two Riverkings consolation goals.

# Trinity plan ahead despite cash worries

WAKEFIELD TRINITY still do not know how they are to be funded in the Super League, despite a meeting of the Rugby League in Salford yesterday. Trinity are worried about affording a competitive Super League side, and their finances in 2000, should they survive among the elite next season, writes Dave Hadfield.

League officials described the situation as "very delicate" and "hanging on the goodwill of other agencies". That could indicate an appeal to the Super League, which has so far refused to finance its new member from the Sky contract cash. With the start of Super League less than three months away, Trinity's plans are therefore uncertain, although some decisions have been made.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

They have released one of last season's overseas players, the Australian winger, Josh Bostock, have offered new contracts to Andy Fisher, Francis Stephenson and Sean Richardson, and are interested in two Sheffield players, Martin Wood and Nick Pinkney, as well as three Australians, likely to be from the now defunct Adelaide and Gold Coast clubs.

The Rugby League may this week announce the venue for the Challenge Cup finals in 2000 and 2001, when Wembley will be in the middle of re-building. Likely candidates are Twickenham, Murrayfield, Hampden and the new national stadium in Cardiff.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Atlanta 28 Indianapolis 21; San Francisco 31 Carolina 20 (OT); Buffalo 33 Cincinnati 10; Jacksonville 57 Detroit 22; New Orleans 22 Dallas 3; NY Jets 32 Seattle 31; New England 23 Pittsburgh 10; Tampa Bay 24 San Diego 20; NY Giants 23 Arizona 19; Denver 35 Kansas City 31; Miami 27 Oakland 17; Tennessee 18 Baltimore 14; Minnesota 48 Chicago 22.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION  
New York Jets 11 3 247 230  
Miami 9 4 258 185  
Buffalo 8 5 265 282  
New England 7 6 285 245  
Indianapolis 2 11 229 364  
JACKSONVILLE  
Jacksonville 10 3 348 269  
Pittsburgh 7 6 233 241  
Tennessee 8 5 276 350  
Baltimore 5 8 219 263  
Cincinnati 11 17 354

## WESTERN DIVISION

Denver 13 0 436 237  
Oakland 7 7 216 271  
Seattle 6 7 286 242  
San Diego 5 9 269 321  
San Francisco 5 8 201 271  
CENTRAL DIVISION  
Dallas 8 5 328 238  
Houston 7 6 276 271  
New York Giants 6 8 219 276  
Washington 4 9 254 357  
Chicago 10 1 121 21  
MINNESOTA  
Minnesota 12 1 242 242  
Green Bay 9 4 314 240  
Tampa Bay 5 7 223 250  
St Louis 6 6 269 271  
Chicago 3 10 219 323

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

San Francisco 10 3 353 239  
Dallas 10 3 385 272  
New Orleans 6 7 238 268

## BASEBALL

The Hall of Fame player Joe DiMaggio has suffered a serious setback over the weekend in his recovery from lung cancer surgery. DiMaggio's lung infection has returned and he has developed a fever. His doctor said:

## CRICKET

Salim Malik scored 149 to guide Lahore City Cricket Association to a thrilling one-wicket win over touring Zimbabwe yesterday.

## FOUR DAY MATCH (Lahore):

Zimbabwe 394 and 239 for 6 dec; LCCA 287 for 5 dec and 350 for 5 LCCA won by one wicket.

## CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP (Ulverston, Cumbria) 15 miles: 1 C Young (Team Marie Curie) led the first 24 hours of leg two from Cape Town to Auckland. In the Class 160-footers, Isabelle Autissier was the early leader. Followed by Marc Thiercelin, Mike Golding and Giovanni Soldini, with Golding's Team Group 4 the most southerly boat.

## SKIING

The injured double Olympic ski champion Katja Seizinger said yesterday she may have to retire after damaging ligaments in both knees and fracturing the top of her left shin in a training crash in Italy in June.

## SNOOKER

ROTHAMSTON MAJKA GRAND PRIX (Bognor Regis): 5 Hendry (50) bt A Doherty (Reg int) 7-6.

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ANDORRA							
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AUSTRIA							
Ischgl	80%	Great snow	40	70	27.11	-5C	Unsettled
Mayrhofen	40%	Very good	10	30	27.11	0C	Cloudy
CANADA							
Lake Louise	60%	Firm packed snow	70	120	05.12	-5C	Light snow
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	40%	16 runs open	30	80	06.12	-5C	Colder
Valloire	10%	Man-made, 6 lifts	15	40	05.12	-2C	Colder
NORWAY							
Hemsedal	10%	Firm packed snow	20	40	10.11	1C	Sunny
SPAIN							
Sierra Nevada	0%	More snow req	10	15	28.11	-2C	Lt snow
SWITZERLAND							
Davos	45%	High slopes good	20	100	27.11	-3C	Lt snow
UNITED STATES							
Killington	40%	Packed snow	55	90	27.11	0C	Changeable

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TRAVEL INSURANCE

# TODAY'S NUMBER

400,000

The number of tracts to be handed out by American Baptist missionaries during the Asian Games in Bangkok. A card offering mail-order Bible study is inserted in each tract.



## SPORT

THORPE'S HEARTBREAK P25 • BAYERN'S FRENCH POLISH P23

Houllier may let  
Ince go to Spurs

IT WAS clear when Roy Evans departed Anfield and left Gérard Houllier in sole charge that changes would be afoot, and yesterday it became apparent that Liverpool are not only lining up a replacement for Steve McManaman, but are also ready to sell Paul Ince.

Ince, the club captain and an England international, will be a surprise casualty when Houllier begins reshaping his side - and the axe may fall sooner rather than later if Liverpool go out of Europe against Celta Vigo tonight.

Ince has been linked with Tottenham and Houllier would accept a bid of around £5m for the self-styled "Guv nor" if his White Hart Lane counterpart, George Graham, makes a definite move.

Houllier has told friends that he feels the current team is not good enough to win the title and

FOOTBALL  
BY ALAN NIXON

is willing to sacrifice some leading players to turn the club around. Spurs are watching developments with growing interest and, if Graham tests the water with an enquiry for Ince this week, he could receive a surprising reply.

Should McManaman leave at the end of the season, when his contract runs out, his replacement is likely to be Croatia Zagreb's £3m-rated wide man, Silvio Maric.

The 23-year-old Maric, who can play on either wing, could be on his way to Anfield for talks by the end of the week if his club go out of the Champions' League tomorrow night. Dynamo, as Zagreb fans call their team, are at home to Olympiakos in Group A, needing to

win well to have any chance of reaching the last eight. Maric's agent has been in close contact with Liverpool for the past few weeks, while Liverpool have monitored him constantly in Europe this season.

Maric's only snag may be gaining a work permit. He has won a dozen caps, but many have been as a substitute.

Arsène Wenger will restore some semblance of much-needed stability at Highbury tomorrow by finally signing a new four-year contract.

After months of apparent prevaricating, Wenger will finally sign the new deal which Arsenal's directors have been wanting since May to tie him to Highbury to the year 2002. "There was never any doubt because I had given my word long ago and that was more important than my signature," the Frenchman said. "Now I will

definitely do it because people have made so much of it."

Arsenal signed a Berkovic yesterday - not West Ham's Eyal, but his brother Nir from Maccabi Haifa. The 16-year-old attacking midfielder will join the Gunners' youth squad next month and live with his older brother in London before returning to serve in the army.

Sheffield United have agreed to sell the 34-year-old Welsh international striker Dean Saunders to Portugal's Benfica in a £500,000 deal.

Chelsea's Dennis Wise has been banned for three matches following his dismissal at Everton on Saturday.

Wembley officials have admitted for the first time they will be forced to tear down the twin towers. A storm of protest erupted after it was revealed the landmark may be removed when Wembley is rebuilt.

"The towers will have to go because the entire stadium will need widening," Wembley Stadium's vice-chairman, Jarvis Astaire, said. "But I believe replicas will be built."

South Africa have complied with Leeds United's wishes and left Lucas Radebe out of their squad for the Nelson Mandela Inauguration Challenge against Egypt in Johannesburg on 16 December. He is now free to play for his club in Premiership games against Coventry on 14 December and Arsenal six days later.

## Winter lesson in river craft



Stroke on the water yesterday as Cambridge University's Boat Race hopefuls, split into two crews dubbed Itchy and Scratchy, engage in a trial race on the Thames  
Report, page 25. Photograph: David Ashdown

## Batty deal close to completion

DAVID BATTY is set to make his second Leeds United debut against Gordon Strachan's Coventry City next Monday.

Leeds and Newcastle have agreed a fee of around £4.4m for the England midfielder, who won the old First Division title with a United side captained by Strachan, the Sky Blues' manager, in 1992.

Since then Batty has played

for Blackburn Rovers - winning a Premiership winners' medal three years ago - and the Magpies, but is now poised to return to the club he supported as a boy and spent six years with until 1993. He signed a five-year contract at St James' Park in the summer, but 10 days ago handed in a transfer request, which was granted by the Magpies.

Leeds quickly emerged as

the front-runners in the race to capture Batty, who was 30 last Wednesday, but they struggled to negotiate a fee with Newcastle. Their first offer of £4m was rejected by the Geordies, who were believed to be holding out for £6m. However, with Leeds raising their bid, and Batty having agreed to waive £800,000 in signing-on bonuses, the deal was resurrected.

Kidd axes  
Ewood stalwart

BY ALAN NIXON

BRIAN KIDD began building his brave new world at Blackburn Rovers yesterday by ending Derek Fazackerley's contract as first-team coach at Ewood Park.

Kidd, who resigned as Manchester United's assistant manager last week to replace the sacked Roy Hodgson, intends to appoint a new coach as quickly as possible.

The long-term Rovers servant Fazackerley holds the record for the most appearances for Blackburn. He made 674 appearances for the Lancashire club in 17 years as a stalwart centre-half before joining the Ewood Park coaching staff in the early 1990s.

Hodgson himself is ready to jump back into management, as the new coach of VfB Stuttgart. He is in talks with the Bundesliga club about a quick return to the top-level game just a fortnight after being sacked by Rovers.

Stuttgart are hoping to persuade Hodgson to join them this week after Winfried Schäfer resigned last week. They are in ninth place in the First Division.

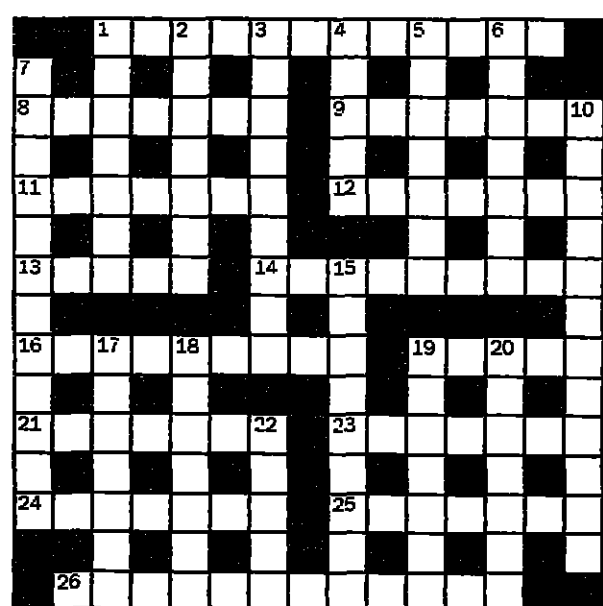
Despite his problems at Blackburn, Hodgson has a good reputation abroad after his time as coach of both Switzerland and at Internazionale.

## THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3785 Tuesday 8 December

By Alfred

Monday's Solution



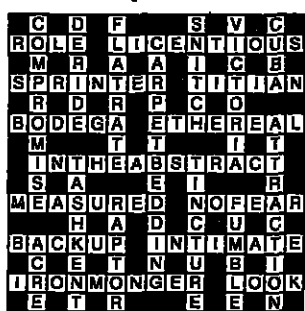
## ACROSS

- 1 Bachelor brothers with heads could live here (7,5)
- 8 One has to change record given unknown new word (7)
- 9 Rule out old hint about daughter (7)
- 11 Finish with Georgia and me when mate's in the offing (3-4)
- 12 Person active round ship with one assembles a file (7)
- 13 Writer giving satisfaction to church (5)
- 14 Show disapproval of gold vessel which teacher has (9)
- 16 Features catch which holds helmet in place (9)
- 19 Chemist found hidden in

- 21 tarpaulins (5)
- 22 Bad money, we hear, brought up rudely (3-4)
- 23 Please put out the candle? (7)
- 24 Pull drink back for stingy type (7)
- 25 Root cause of English bad weather (7)
- 26 Dandy has this idiot man's touch (7,5)

## DOWN

- 1 By engaging base doctor you'll get hairy treatment? (4-3)
- 2 Instrument the heartless abuse (7)
- 3 There's Mr Yeats initially performing as this (9)
- 4 Japanese money lying idle? It won't produce this (5)



- 5 Awfully ironic about second nipper (7)
- 6 In Lincs town one's rough (7)
- 7 It might have to be forced out of reticent Joni (12)
- 10 Piercing - to put ring through? (3-9)
- 15 Despire NT description of Laodicean quality? (9)
- 17 Bad English prisoner strung up? It's against the law (7)
- 18 Help group to keep right to front (7)
- 19 Figure old college's almost demolished (7)
- 20 Improve training for guard protecting Prince and entourage initially (7)
- 22 Venetian ruler embracing daughter in US truck (5)

1-0 down.

We're in trouble if you don't think of something quick, Roy.

Roy...?

Liverpool v Celta Vigo. Live tonight only on Channel 5. 5







## EU fight for jobs

Sir: You rightly call for perspective in the debate about converging corporate and savings taxes in the European Union (leader, 2 December). The wider discussion about combating unemployment in Europe is crucial to understanding that perspective.

With the victory of the German Socialists and Greens in recent elections, there has begun a meltdown of monetary policy in Europe. It is clear that the French and German governments will seek not only to resume the interventionist agenda pioneered by Jacques Delors, but to go way beyond it, to meet the global crisis.

I had the task of building on Delors' report, and reporting to the European Parliament on the plans for European economic action against unemployment. In 1994 and 1995 we secured overwhelming majorities for the proposals to create 15 million new jobs, and halve the rate of European unemployment by the end of the century.

I received every possible encouragement from the late John Smith, but the response from new Labour was frigidly itself. It is clear that Tony Blair was in complete sympathy with the Council of Ministers at Essen, in 1994, which effectively neutered the Delors White Paper.

The government of the united left in France has, ever since Jospin's election victory, sought to find the way to reopen this agenda to create jobs. The idea of joint action, in which several governments agree to do the same kinds of things in order to generate employment, has been taken up and produced modest progress. But this must be reinforced by combined action.

The German Oskar Lafontaine supports the call for a European economic government to match pace and control the European Central Bank. If monetary policy is not to escape democratic control, then European political institutions have a great vacuum to fill. Until it is filled, mass unemployment will continue to rule in Europe.

KEN COATES MEP  
(Nottingham North and  
Chesterfield)  
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Sir: Anne McElvoy complains of the disinformation and propaganda surrounding the European debate in this country (Comment, 2 December). But she adds her own helping of disinformation by suggesting that Britain could somehow be deprived against its will of its existing veto on European tax legislation.

Any such change could only come about as a result of a modification to the European treaties, which can only be changed by unanimous agreement. Britain will not agree to such a modification in any foreseeable future: nor would Britain be alone in adopting such a negative attitude. It is a willful misrepresentation of the way the European Union works to suggest that Britain's fiscal veto is today genuinely at risk.

Nor is the role of the European Central Bank compromised by the election of a left-wing government in Germany. "Hatchet-faced central bankers" will continue to run the bank under the statutes laid out in the Maastricht treaty. These statutes, which deliberately give an unusual amount of independence to the Central Bank, can only be changed by unanimity, an extraordinarily unlikely prospect.

Reasonable commentators may disagree as to if and when Britain should join the euro. Nobody should be in any doubt, however, that the current polemic about tax harmonisation is a massive red herring conjured up by those who fear that the argument is slipping away from them after the strikingly successful launch of EMU earlier this year.

BRENDAN DONNELLY MEP  
(Sussex South and Crawley, C)  
Haywards Heath, West Sussex

Sir: Before the hrouhaha and angst over European business taxes has

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Winter Visitors No 2: Whooper swans from Iceland over-wintering at Welney in Norfolk

David Rose

died down, a critical point should be clarified in the minds of all concerned.

The proposal does not reach the starting post. The principle was established, quite forcefully, 350 years ago, that no tax may be imposed in this country except by free decision of Parliament. No court not answerable to Parliament itself, whether Star Chamber, Court of Exchequer, or Council of Ministers, may lay any kind of tax on us, or instruct Parliament to do so. No one need pay such a tax. This is a principle from which surely all nations must benefit (as America did). Do we have to cut off more heads to underline it? If so, whose?

Why, I wonder, do European politicians vie with the Eurosceptics in providing inexhaustible ammunition to undermine the European system? Is Mr Lafontaine a secret Europhobe? WILLIAM STEVENSON  
Edinburgh

## Scouts in Chile

Sir: The question whether or not we should allow the extradition of General Pinochet to Spain has created a rift between Britain and Chile and the Foreign Office has advised British citizens against travelling to Chile. The response of most people was probably, "Who wants to visit Chile anyway?" There are 2,500 Scouts and leaders who care very much.

They are part of the United Kingdom contingent to 19th world Scout Jamboree which is being held in Chile from 27 December to 7 January. They have spent between 18 months and two years planning, training and fundraising for this event. The cost per person is in excess of £2,000. Many of those chosen to attend will have had to go through quite a rigorous selection procedure.

Jamborees are only held every four years and each Scout will only get one opportunity in their lifetime to attend a Jamboree as a participant. A World Scout Jamboree is an incredible

experience for both participants and staff. You camp and work alongside units from almost every scouting nation in the world. The theme this year is "Building Peace Together".

So please, Jack Straw, think about the young people of your country who have a chance to help to build a lasting peace for the future. Make your peace with Chile so that we may attend the Jamboree.

HILARY WALKER  
International Service Team, 19th  
World Scout Jamboree  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Were the approach espoused by Alfredo Barriga (letter, 7 December), namely that Pinochet should not be extradited because it would only encourage dictators to cling more tenaciously to power, to be taken seriously, then we might as well tear up the Universal Declaration on Human Rights immediately. All other gross violations of human rights should likewise be brought to justice, preferably before an international tribunal, because that would show that human rights abuses are everybody's business.

The Cold War is long over and with it should have died the *realpolitik* and retrospective justification for American support for anti-Marxist crusaders like Pinochet. Now we have another set of excuses: commercial interests.

Sir: Thomas Kielinger is wrong about Lady Macbeth's inadequate nursing skills ("Get used to the meddling Germans", 7 December). In Act 1 scene 7 she says: "I have given suck, and know/How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me." Admittedly things do go rather downhill from then on. STEFAN STERN  
London SW12

Sir: I recently rang the Gateway computer helpline for

The Law Lords' decision has shown that we are moving towards a more enlightened era where respect for the basic human rights of individuals will rank equally with, if not above, the property interests of powerful businesses. NICK ROSE  
London NW5

## Prize for perversity

Sir: In your enthusiastic support for the Turner Prize (leading article, 2 December), you inadvertently highlighted precisely what is wrong with the prize.

You state that the prize has "added to the gaiety of the nation in one of the areas of culture where Britain is now paramount". In fact, what the prize has done, very successfully, is to erode the traditional and fundamental skills and disciplines of the real artist. The Turner Prize, over the past 14 years, has encouraged young artists to strive for shallow entertainment in their work, for novelty, titillation and worst of all, a perverse delight in displaying an alarming inability to draw competently or even to arrange colour and shape, in any meaningful way.

You go on to assert that the prize shows where some of the action in modern art is taking place. Alas, this is simply not the case. The Turner Prize has

become a vehicle with which to promote the careers of a handful of unexceptional artists by cynical agents, dealers and in some cases, gallery administrators.

Finally, you conclude that "a public gallery is doing its job entertaining and involving an audience". While it is highly debatable whether a national gallery should be entertaining, it is certainly beyond question that it should involve and engage the public. But publicity stunts like the Turner Prize merely serve to baffle and alienate both the general public and the gallery-going public. For a competition which avoids such dangers we need look no further than the Jerwood Prize. KEVIN DRISCOLL  
London WC1

## No class is immune

Sir: Thank you for carrying Annabel Ferriman's enlightening piece on the fortification of flour with foliac acid ("Why we need flour power", 1 December). It is an unfashionable subject but vital to help to prevent spina bifida and other neural tube defects in unborn babies.

But we must take issue with the inference that spina bifida is selective by socio-economic grouping, that "women most at risk are those whose diet lacks natural vitamins or the ill-educated who are least likely to act

on public health information campaigns".

We know as many educated, middle-class mothers as we do those from less affluent backgrounds. Some choose not to take foliac acid supplements; some have never taken on board the information from the Health Education Authority campaign, and neither have their GPs. Some, of course, believe, "It'll never happen to me." Many become pregnant by accident.

That is why around one thousand pregnancies a year are still affected by spina bifida in the UK.

ROSEMARY BATCHELOR  
Senior Adviser, Health and Policy  
Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus  
Peterborough

## Justice for lawyers

Sir: Your scary headline "Convicted solicitors free to practise" (2 December) does not tell the full story. The implication of your piece is that solicitors somehow protect each other when they get into trouble.

Professional rules quite rightly make the protection of clients' money sacrosanct. In my experience, it is safe to assume that dishonesty by a solicitor will be punished by a strike-off.

There are lots of other professional offences involving money, which fall short of dishonesty. The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal will punish those according to their seriousness and the circumstances of the offender. Accounting errors, late or unpaid debts and financial incompetence may be punished in a variety of ways.

It would be an injustice if the tribunal did not show mercy to solicitors who can demonstrate valued work for the community and who have got into honest difficulty because of personal or business problems. ANDREW LOCKLEY  
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors  
Sheffield

## Memories of Caitlin

Sir: No one who knew Dylan and Caitlin Thomas during their marriage would recognise the picture that she apparently saw fit to present to her second husband and son ("Dylan was my mother's ruin", 2 December).

I knew the Thomas family well, stayed with them in Laugharne and spent a lot of time with them in London. To say that Caitlin was lacking in confidence and generally oppressed and put down is as far as possible from the truth. I remember her as the head of that chaotic household, an affectionate mother to her small children and well able to hold her own in any dispute with her husband. She did not sacrifice her career to him - although a formidable and competitive woman, she was not a particularly talented dancer.

A great deal of nonsense has been written about, and sometimes by, those two people. It is not reasonable to add to it the evidence of the son of her second marriage on what happened before he was born.

SHEILA CUTFORTH  
East Hoathly, East Sussex

## Gas-powered ballet

Sir: Under the headline "Stand up to these egotistical donors", on David Lister's article (30 November) about the Royal Court and the Jerwood Foundation, I was astonished to read the header "Central School of Ballet now tours as British Gas Ballet Central."

It is our performing group, Ballet Central, which tours as British Gas Ballet Central. But this is not "now", is sudden or recent, it has been so since 1990, a long and loyal sponsorship on both sides.

To take head-on the implication of egotism and opportunism, contained in the article about the Royal Court, British Gas has invested around £1m in our young dancers over a decade in order to bring live dance by aspiring young professionals to far-flung communities, some of which receive little live arts performance. This is over 70 per cent of our costs, the balance being made up at the box office. The taxpayer is not called upon, nor the Lottery player.

Ballet Central simply could not exist without its sponsor, which deserves plaudits, hence its place in our title, not bricksbats. ANN STANNARD  
Director  
Central School of Ballet  
London EC1

## American charity

Sir: Your excellent leader on different attitudes to charitable giving in Britain and the United States (5 December) focuses rightly on tax policies. However, having lived five years in Britain, I also believe there are more deep-seated reasons.

In Britain and in much of Europe, private charity is viewed by the chattering classes as pretentious at best and a devious scheme to silence the poor at worst. In the United States the opposite view prevails. Most of us believe that compassion and generosity with other people's money, when channelled through the state, is a necessary evil at best and a cowardly rationalisation of stinginess at worst.

Contrary to widespread opinion, the only significant similarity between the British and American people is the language. ANDREW HIRSCH  
Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA

## Euro-insults

Sir: Defining them as Huns mitigates his offence, but does David Aaronovitch (Comment, 3 December) have to use the American term "krauts" when the traditional English word of abuse for Germans is "boches", which can be usefully enhanced to *soles boches*. As a supporter of European integration should he not be using European terms of abuse? ARTHUR HAMILTON  
Osterley Park, Middlesex

## How have you lived without an electric washing up brush?

AS CHRISTMAS comes slipping over nearer, like a small gang of bank robbers in the undergrowth, I'd like to offer help with your Christmas gift-buying, and that means it's time for another visit to the Independent Christmas Bazaar!

Yes, here is another selection of mouth-watering gift ideas, all ingenious, all made cheaply in the Third World and all sold at advanced capitalist prices. If you don't see something to solve a present problem here, we shall feel very let down by you.

Encyclopaedia of Film Endings All too often we have to leave a TV film before the end, and never find out what happened. Or we time a VHS tape to record a film, and the TV company changes the start of

the film so the tape runs out before the end. Or maybe we do see the end of the film but can't understand what happened! Now, all your troubles are over, with an encyclopaedia that tells you the endings of over 5,000 popular late night films - and explains them! Nothing else, just the endings! You need never wonder again if he and she do get it together in the end, or if she finally shoots him as he so richly deserves! Price £19.99, or the deluxe edition for £39.99 which lists all the original endings planned for films, which the directors were forced to discard.

Home Sparkling Wine Maker A great new breakthrough in home wine-making - a machine which converts an ordinary dry white wine into a classy new sparkling

white. You just take home a bottle of boring old white plonk, stick it in the Home Sparkling Wine Maker, and hey presto! Fifteen minutes later it's a wonderful champagne-type bottle of bubbly. (NB It is expressly forbidden by law to put the name Champagne on anything, but we think you can still get away with "champagne-type") £43.50, including 100 labels.

Reading Spectacles Locator One of the great mysteries of life, if you wear specs, is the way that reading glasses cases never go missing and reading glasses always do. Now at last these two facts have been combined to produce a device which will always locate your specs! When you lose your glasses, go straight to your case, because inside your spectacle case

you have now put a small switch. When you press this switch it activates a bleep on your glasses.

**MILES KINGTON**  
No more vainly rubbing at coffee-stained mugs and grease-encrusted frying pans...

which you will then hear calling to you like a little lost lamb. (NB This noise can be turned to any volume, but we advise you to keep it soft, as very often the missing glasses are hanging round your neck, and it is somewhat self-defeating to be deafened by your own glasses.) £75.75.

Electric Washing Up Brush At last a household device which combines new technology with the old-fashioned virtues of washing up. No more vainly rubbing at coffee-stained mugs and grease-encrusted frying pans - now this high-speed revolving washing up brush removes all muck in a moment! Battery or mains powered. Caution: should not be used on antique china, as tends to remove pictorial patterns. £35.90.

Mobile Phone Background Noise Creator When you ring home on your mobile and say to your partner, "I'm on the train home," and there is no train noise behind you, who is really going to believe you? When you ring home to say you're working late, and she can hear pub chat and noise of glasses tinkling in the background, what chance have you got?

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## Not a bold decision, but the right one for the Post Office

PETER MANDELSON, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has made few difficult decisions since his elevation to the Cabinet. Yesterday proved to be his first real test, tackling a Post Office crying out for change.

The Post Office has been losing domestic business to competitors from mainland Europe: the service's reliability is under strain and could do with a burst of new investment. Yet The Post Office has been shackled to an unresponsive Government. The profits The Post Office makes have to be given to the Treasury; it has not been allowed to borrow, since the amounts raised have to be set against the Treasury's overall borrowing requirement.

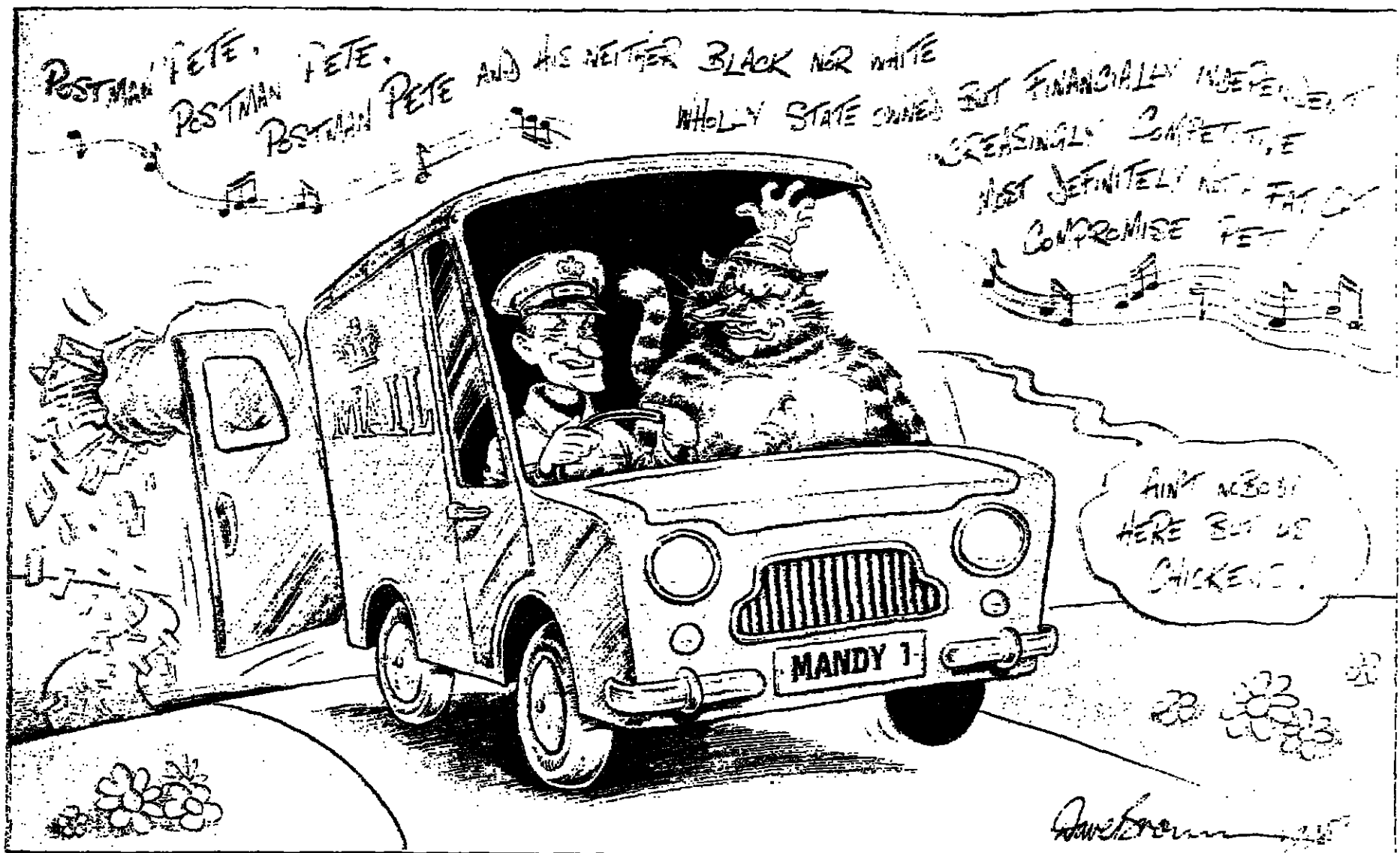
No one wants to see the chaos of the privatised railways, a standing reproach to those who would rush into privatising services that people rely on and care about, replicated in our postal services. A total free for all may also endanger the objective of one postal cost for letters sent anywhere in the country, without which rural Britain would be left with a sub-standard service.

Nor is total and immediate privatisation political reality. The sight of the red post-boxes and the monarch's head on the stamps are enormously comforting, one remaining symbol of national identity in everyday life. Public suspicion that the Tories were about to meddle with The Post Office made a significant contribution to their electoral collapse. But The Post Office will have to be flexible to survive in a booming and cut-throat market. Permitting borrowing, and allowing it to give up a smaller slice of profit to the exchequer, will grant just that flexibility.

In the long run, its monopoly may have to disappear. Why should the state carrier be permitted to borrow at the low rates its privileged position allows, leaving other operators to struggle in its wake? The Government has recognised this by lowering the posting cost at which the monopoly on domestic carriage begins. It has also made a gesture towards fairness for other postal companies in revoking The Post Office's immunity from VAT on parcels.

It seems likely that there will be a phased reduction in that monopoly position; yesterday the removal of The Post Office's exclusive hold on direct mail was brought forward. If the monopoly does not hold, future governments will have to subsidise deliveries, so that postal costs to the far reaches of the country do not rise prohibitively.

All that is for the future. For now, Mr Mandelson seems to have managed the transition to managed competition with some skill. There was no point in forcing a confrontation with the postal unions, and there is no hurry in leaping into a brave but untested world of unmanaged competition. The Post Office has sensibly been established on the same basis as its competitors, as management wished. Now it is for them to show that they can compete.



## Two 'R's are worth one hour of attention

THOSE WHO sneered at the Government's literacy initiatives should be ashamed of themselves today as they digest the two-year study published yesterday by the Office for Standards in Education. The study shows a real gain in average reading age over that period.

It appears that concentrating the minds of all concerned by means of a "literacy hour" and by changing the way reading is taught can produce results. Overall, the picture is one of improvement in an area that has not seen significant change for 50 years. In announcing the figures, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, emphasised the Government's insistence on "phonics", the method whereby children are taught to read through the sounds that make up words. Mr Blunkett's insistence on

national standards is another example of the good work he has done in insisting on one standard for all.

It does seem as if the political consensus on education extends to the teaching of reading using "phonics"; but just as there are many types of teacher, there is a huge variety of teaching techniques. The popular caricature of "loony left" teachers imposing a "whole books" revolution, in which children are simply exposed to a pile of books and expected to absorb reading, is nonsense. In reality, schools adopted a wide range of methods, depending on the needs of each child and class; "whole books" was just one technique among many.

Recent research by St Andrews University seems to show that a new "phonics" method may yield better results. Instead of teaching whole words by their composite sounds, it may be better to teach the sounds first and mix them up into different words. The Government has performed well in raising standards but must remain open-minded about the means.

## Populism on the plinth

WHO WOULD you like to see honoured on the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square? Margaret Thatcher? Michael Owen? Florence Nightingale? Nelson Mandela? Well, it doesn't matter much, because the decision will be taken by Westminster Council from suggestions by the Royal Society of Arts. These include a figure of Christ, an upside-down cast of the plinth and a severed head caught in the roots of a tree. Whatever the merits of these works, what is striking is that the fate of a site of national and international distinction will be decided by an establishment elite and the planning committee of a local authority.

Perhaps we should try democracy? A plebiscite would stimulate a lively debate that would reveal much about us. We could test preferential and electronic voting. Our suggestion: Charles Darwin, the most influential figure in 160 years. In all events, it's time to fill the people's plinth.

# Tony may love the capitalists, but thankfully Clare has kept cool

ON SUNDAY evening I switched something on (it had been another hard day, and I can't remember whether it was the TV, the radio or possibly even, the hairdryer) and heard the Kaa hiss of John Redwood urging that naughty old Clare Short be "disciplined" by the Government. Before I knew what was happening I was being plagued by unbidden mental images of a bare Clare, tied to a gym horse, being thrashed alternately by Alastair Campbell and Peter Mandelson, as Mr Redwood watched on, his thin lips set in (for him) a lascivious smile.

This may be, I agree, my problem; I cannot tell you why I associate John Redwood with sadomasochism, but I do. In this instance it could be because there was no good political or administrative reason why Clare Short should be ill treated, so I sort of assumed that the disciplining should be done for the pleasure of it.

Not that I cannot see what Mr Redwood was seeking to achieve. It is his main purpose to sunder the alliance forged before the election between business and New Labour - an alliance which threatens to keep the Conservatives in perpetual opposition. Redwood cannot woo business over Europe, because he is a Europhobe, and business swings mainly the other way. But everything else is grist to his mill, and he suspects that - for many Labourites - furthering the cause of free enterprise still feels uncomfortable, like sympathy for the devil.

He has a point. I was 13 in 1968, and for the next decade or so - I thought business sucked. We all did, us lefties. Our first objection was sort of politi-

cal. I knew from Agitprop street theatre that businessmen were fat, dressed like pantomime villains, wore top hats with dollar signs on, watered the worker's beer and rubbed their hands. I wasn't aware at the time that, with the dollar exchanged for a Star of David, the same caricature had been made to do terrible service for a very different cause.

The main reason for our distaste for private enterprise, however, was social. It was uncool; no good characters in movies were businessmen. In *The Graduate* we lured daughters away from materialism, and in *If we moved down the establishment* from the chapel roof. Flowers were what you took to San Francisco - not a franchise to sell hippy gonks at a discount. Alice's Restaurant was certainly a non-profit-making concern. Make Love Not War, and definitely not Money. Our ambitions were to be rock stars, or failing that (less money, same nookie) - sociology lecturers. The kids who did aspire to join companies and become entrepreneurs were creepy, pale boys with glasses and repressive parents. Or, as PJ O'Rourke has pointed out, they were drug dealers.

For many years I was broadly in favour of anything that stopped business from happening at all. Strikes were great, pickets (especially flying ones) were romantic, works to rule a kind of poetic justice in which capitalism's own regulations were used against it. And while not everyone left of, say, Jeremy Thorpe necessarily bought the whole anti-business schtick, enough did to make Labour

side. Pals became lovers. The danger of new love affairs is always that infatuation will blur judgement. You try too hard to be the thing that the loved one desires - and at the same time, you gloss over his or her faults and blemishes. So a whole lot of wart-kissing goes on, and in the case of business this takes the form of forgetting a couple of important things: that business persons say they love competition, but would really prefer monopoly, and that seeing business as an end in itself, rather than as a means to an end, is usually a disaster.

So those who had become concerned for the government's sanity because of its relationship with the Bernie Ecclestons and Rupert Murdoch of this world, have reason to feel very relieved by Clare Short's blunt refusal to proselytise on behalf of British business while on aid trips. It seems obvious that if aid is to be tied in any way to economic behaviour, then the sole goal of that pressure must be to assist development and the relief of poverty. What we "get out of it" (beside a warm glow) is not a contract here or there, but a world full of stronger, more prosperous trading partners. Short's strategic position - that aid should be conditional only on the appropriate policies in recipient countries - is immensely strengthened by her stand.

It is a paradox of the Tory view, as adumbrated by Messrs Redwood and Howard, that it supports the need for unfettered competition and free markets, while somehow believing that it is the Government's job to broker contracts abroad. This leads to



**DAVID AARONOVITCH**  
*Those concerned for the Government's sanity should welcome Short's refusal to proselytise for business*

AN IMPEACHMENT trial would paralyze the national government. Congress, the Supreme Court and the president would be unable to do any business because senators would be required to attend the proceedings, the chief justice would be required to preside and the president would be preoccupied with his predicament. Members of the House cannot dodge their constitutional duty to make a determination and to deliver their judgment

to the people as to whether they believe that President Clinton's conduct, however wrong, rises to the level of an impeachable offense. They must then take an additional step. They must determine whether it is in the nation's best interest to go forward with impeachment given all the circumstances. For me and for most Americans, the answer is self-evident. End it in the House. (Bruce McColl) *Los Angeles Times*

**MONITOR**  
ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
*American press comment on the possible impeachment of President Clinton*

WITH FEEBLE support for impeachment and a vote of censure still problematic, a frantic Congress is posting suggestion boxes all over Capitol Hill in the search for a punishment to fit

President Bill Clinton's moral and legal crimes before he escapes unscathed at the end of his term. "We love the idea of handcuffing him to the first lady for life," says an insider of one

early submission, "but, hey, we're not sadists! On the other hand, passing legislation to ban Clinton from ever eating another doughnut - that's a mere wrist slap. He'd still have cookies and pies. Sewing up his tear ducts? Without that sincerity trick, he's dead meat. But it does feel, you know, kind of medieval." (Bruce McColl) *Los Angeles Times*

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton continued to duck and weave with

legalistic gobbledygook in response to 81 questions the House asked of him. Clinton, and we, could learn a lot from President Grant's approach to his problems, which ranged from too much drinking to too little hands-on governing. Grant admitted mistakes and tried to tell the truth. Our President Pinocchio could take a cue from Grant on his 122nd anniversary of our 18th president's plain talk. (Al Neuharth) *USA Today*

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can see how vigorous I am," Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia, on firing his chief of staff

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A great deal of learning can be packed into an empty head" Karl Kraus, writer



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## PANDORA

PANDORA IS told that the latest gag flying about Westminster concerns the Government's continuing obsession with media manipulation. It goes like this:

**First Civil Servant:** I hear Downing Street is setting up a Long Term Planning Unit.

**Second Civil Servant:** Oh, why is that then?

**First Civil Servant:** They're very worried about the day after tomorrow.

WAS THE Prime Minister amongst those who would have been disappointed by Wembley Stadium vice-chairman Jarvis Astaire when he said yesterday that the Stadium's twin-towers "will have to go because the entire stadium will need widening. But I believe replicas will be built." Certainly Tony Blair left nobody in any doubt of his feeling for the stadium when he wrote the following in *Wembley - Venue of Legends*, the official 75th anniversary magazine published this year: "As we approach the new Millennium, we all look forward to many more years of the twin towers of Wembley." If the original towers are replaced perhaps Mr Blair could ask Mr Mandelson to put them in his Millennium Dome?

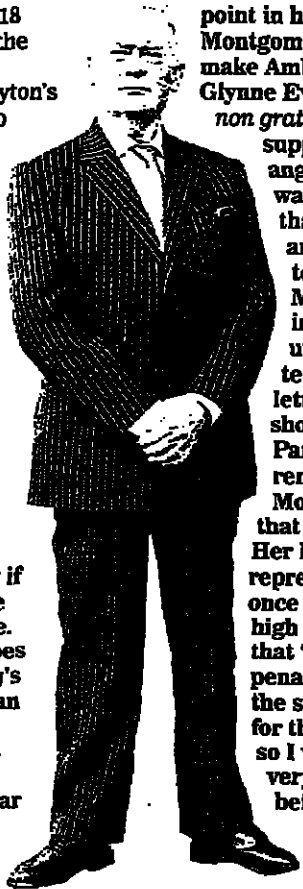
WHILE NOT wishing to crow, Pandora must salute *The Sunday Times* for their homage to this column last Sunday. On the front page was the intriguing story of Judi Dench meeting Sir David Spedding, M16 chief, for a Christmas drink - a story first broken in the British press in this column (30 November). Turn to page 3 and you encounter a veritable Pandora goldmine, with the story about Channel 4's planned programme on bestiality, which first appeared here on 18 November. As for the matter of the spat between Oliver Peyton's Atlantic and Marco Pierre White's Titanic restaurant's, don't say we didn't warn you (11 November).

MONTHS AGO rumours were circulating that actress Kirstie Alley was being offered £3.5m to pose naked for *Playboy*. It never happened, and *Playboy* won't say if the offer might be taken up in future. However, what does appear in *Playboy*'s January issue is an interview where Alley reveals that cast members of *Cheers*, the popular sitcom that launched her

career, read their lines from crib notes hidden around the set. "When I watch the show now, I always laugh when I open the cigar box because I know I'm trying not to mess up," she told entertainment guide TV Gen. But Alley says she wasn't the worst offender, actor Nicholas Colasanto, who played the popular character of Coach, wrote his lines on trays, on the bar and on every available surface. Repeats of *Cheers* will never be the same again.

PANDORA READS with interest the interview with actor Edward Woodward (pictured) in the Liberal Democrat magazine *informed*. "He still finds time to be an active member of the Liberal Democrats," boasts the magazine. We learn that the actor, famous for his TV roles in *Callan* and *The Equalizer*, only joined the Lib Dems a few years ago, and used to vote Labour despite "the Liberal tradition" being "in my blood." Moreover, is it likely that this active member of the Liberal Democrats will be seen distributing some of the vast number of leaflets the party is infamous for producing? "Unfortunately, I am away from home quite a bit with my work, but I do get involved when I can," admits Woodward, wisely.

PROTAGONISTS IN the Pinochet debate are getting personal. An advertisement taken out in the Santiago newspaper *Estrategia* by Bruce Montgomery, chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Chile, launches a scathing attack on the British ambassador to Chile for failing to transmit the views of the Chilean people on Pinochet's arrest. For "driving Anglo-Chilean relations to its lowest point in history" Montgomery wants to make Ambassador Glynne Evans "persona non grata" and invites support. One angered reader was rather less than supportive and wrote back to Mr Montgomery in no uncertain terms. The letter, kindly shown to Pandora, reminds Montgomery that insults to Her Majesty's representatives once constituted high treason and that "the death penalty is still on the statute books for that offence, so I would be very careful before your next trip to the UK."



# The night I switched off Europe



TERENCE BLACKER

*I found myself yearning for the aggression and technical incompetence of a British football game*

IT WOULD be probably be overstating the case to say that, as Dave Lampkin, the former world champion from the Isle of Man balanced his motorbike on top of a vast tractor tyre before moving on to a pile of logs, I experienced a major shift of political alignment, but something significant seemed to have happened. By the time we were paying a visit to the professional tennis bowling circuit, I knew that views of which I had previously thought I was certain had been severely shaken.

This change of heart took place in a foreign hotel. There was cable TV. For American guests, a 24-hour business channel, presented by dull, sinister analysts, brought the latest news of mergers and credit balances. The French were given light culture - Spinoza for beginners, a documentary on Iggy Pop. The Germans were provided with news about Germany. The British got Eurosport.

What a grim surprise that turned out to be. I had always believed that, given the right circumstances and anaesthetised by a certain amount of alcohol, I could derive some sort

of pleasure from watching almost any sport. Snooker, it's true, can irritate me with its aced stars and its saloon-bar self-importance - particularly when it kicks *The Late Review* off the air - and the attraction of lawn bowls remains something of a mystery. I can even stand cricket, particularly in its truncated two-and-a-half-day form currently being pioneered by England in Australia.

But in Eurosport, I found the perfect 12-step programme to cure me of my addiction. Apart from Dave Lampkin and his balancing bike, there was hour after hour of ski-jumping, followed by 10-pin bowling, a sport so dull that, after a while, the expressionless, middle-aged Americans in the audience began to seem like pervers watching a live sex show. Marginally more interesting was a quasi-erotic dance sport masquerading as a form of gymnastics in which scantily clad Eastern European teenagers thrust themselves hopefully at the camera. Then, for tennis fans, there was a veterans' friendly from Geneva (could any three words together inspire less hope for entertainment than "veterans", "friendly" and "Geneva"?). In which some dear old things hit a ball over the net at one another in the name of a children's charity.

But with dullness came illumination. Astonishingly, these exercises in tedium were sponsored. Every few minutes, the "action" was interrupted by a series of advertisements for cars, trainers, Pringles, George Michael - and the

euro. It's true. A commercial which seems to last for about two minutes is being broadcast across Europe to remind us all that the euro is on its way, that it will make life more convenient and efficient, that it will be great, *magnifique, fantastique*.

It was the ad, and its context, which caused me something of a Euro-crisis. Until now, I had taken the generally easygoing attitude towards Europeanisation encouraged by our great leader and eloquently expressed last week by Andrew Marr in the *New Statesman*. "I want my children to be extraordinarily different from me," he wrote. "I want them to be multilingual, able to move about and feel at home in Germany and France, as I never have or will... They must grow up to see Agincourt and Waterloo as European tribal battles, not destiny-soaked stations towards the triumph of global liberalism."

It made sense. Surely a touch of, say, French wit, Greek warmth and Scandinavian broad-mindedness would leaven the British character; even if we ended up with Scandinavian warmth, German wit and Greek broad-mindedness, it would

be an escape from our self-pitying, insular greyness.

But, on the evidence provided by Eurosport and the euro ad, an alternative future beckons. The international appeal of Dave Lampkin and the friendly tennis veterans depends precisely upon a lack of colour. The very thing which makes, say, sumo wrestling of interest - its ritual, atmosphere, the role of the crowd - is what is removed when it is served up for international audiences. The mandarins of the new internationalism forget that it is sport's barely suppressed violence, its cock-ups and confusion which make it of interest. None of these can be found in the new Euro-blandness which is as sanitised, money-driven and essentially fake as a Coca Cola advert.

Suddenly I find myself yearning for the aggression and technical incompetence of a British football game, the sense that at any moment the thing could descend into a riot.

More seriously, I begin to understand what the nutty patriots in the Conservative Party are worried about. No more cable TV for me.

# Abolish the Lords, but you'll never destroy the dynasties



HAMISH MCRAE

*Politics, like the stage, is clearly a profession where heredity passes on strong benefits*

I HADN'T realised until the obituaries yesterday that Al Gore's father had been a prominent US senator. Like father, like son. If, as seems likely, George Bush Jr and Al Gore tussle for the next presidency of the United States, it will be an extraordinary demonstration of the power of the hereditary principle in politics.

Now look at our House of Lords. The former Tory leader was of course a hereditary peer - and, as a Cecil, a top of the range one at that. The present leader is technically not a hereditary peer, but in practice is one, since Baroness Jay is the daughter of Lord Callaghan, the former prime minister. (She was married to Peter Jay, the economic journalist and son of Lord Jay, the former cabinet minister.) I don't think anyone would contest the fact she would be unlikely to be leader of Labour in the Lords had her father remained a merchant seaman all his life - any more than Peter Jay would have become British ambassador to Washington had the two of them not had such strong political connections.

Indeed in one sense Viscount Cranborne has greater democratic legitimacy than Baroness Jay. He was elected as an MP and served between 1979 and 1987. Baroness Jay, by contrast, has never passed the test of the ballot box.

So the distinction between hereditary politicians and non-hereditary ones is much more complex and subtle than it is made out to be. Some politicians are pure hereditaries, some are quasi-hereditaries, and some merely come from families which have a political tradition that has shaped them and helped them along the way. Peter Mandelson, grandson of Herbert Morrison, comes into that last category.

But the key point is that politics is clearly a profession where hered-

ity passes on strong benefits, not just here, but in many very different countries. The phenomenon is even more apparent in the US and in India, where there seem to be genuine dynasties that can carry on for generations.

Of course the same phenomenon occurs in many other walks of life: you see it in medicine, in the law, in the city, occasionally (though rarely in large companies) in business life, even in journalism. But the area, aside from politics, where it is most evident is in the entertainment industry. You have to be able to cut the mustard for there is no room for the second-rater, but being a Redgrave or a Fonda immediately lifts you above the herd.

What, then, have politics and the entertainment industry in common, which, for example, the civil service or big business do not?

For a start, entry barriers are high. In both professions you have to invest a lot of unpaid time to get yourself on to the bottom of the ladder. Work in big business or the civil service and you are paid from day

one. In politics it is hard to get paid at all; while in the entertainment industries, although pay at the top is outstanding, when you start it is dreadful.

In politics the difficulty of entry is further increased because there is a duopoly: in most countries the political industry is dominated by two large players, so if you are interested in holding office you effectively have to plump for one or the other. In the entertainment industries the problem is the reverse: the structure is unusually fragmented. But the outcome is the same: having a "name" enables you to short-circuit the tedious selection process.

Second, politics and entertainment are both capricious trades. People are up one minute and down the next, depending on luck and knowing the right people. It is much easier to have a durable career if you have good family connections. The fact that your family is a known part of the industry will mean your name is more likely to rise to the top of the pile when the next good job happens along.

Third, in both politics and entertainment image is enormously important, more important than substance. In most professions, image is of only incidental importance; competence is what matters. Airline customers are not interested in the image of the pilot; all they want to know is that the plane is being competently flown. The brand is the airline, not the individual.

Brands exist in politics and entertainment, and they can be built up or damaged. Think of Disney: think of our two major parties over the last quarter century. But in politics and entertainment, the individual is in relative terms much more important. The New Labour rebranding exercise would not have been credible without the personal brand of



UK dynasty: James Callaghan with his daughter, Margaret

Tony Blair. For a period in the 1980s the Thatcher brand was stronger than the Tory one. Top actors' brands are stronger than the studios that make their pictures.

Would-be politicians with no family background in the trade have to create the brand image for themselves from a standing start. Some are brilliant at self-publicity: think of Ken Livingstone or David Mellor.

But being brilliant at creating an individual image carries a risk, in that you may overlook the cake, as I suppose both Livingstone and Mellor have done. One way of achieving brand recognition without taking the risk is to be a member of an established political family. As in entertainment, the ready-made image gives a head start.

Or rather it does if it is the right image, and this leads to a fascinating possibility. Maybe by dumping the explicit hereditary principle, the changes about to be made to the House of Lords (whatever the details turn out to be) will make it a chamber where family background becomes more important, not less.

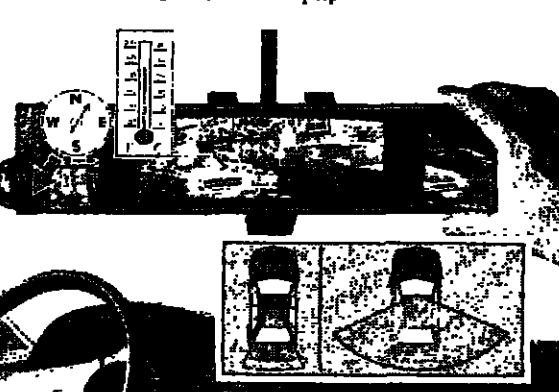
To explain: the explicit hereditary principle is a great turn-off for most people in Britain. That is why hereditary peers who wanted real power - Wedgwood Benn, the Earl of Home - had to renounce their peerages and sit in the Commons. Being a hereditary peer is a bad brand if you want power.

But being part of a political family is, in general, a good brand. A new House of Lords will inevitably have large numbers of people from the "right" families, be they appointees of the government of the day or people elected through some electoral college.

They may not be Tony's cronies but they will in large measure be somebody's cronies. Because the explicit hereditary principle will be demolished, the less explicit power of family background will be enhanced. The Lords will still be built around active political families; but it will in the future have a legitimacy which at present it cannot possess.

The hereditary principle is dead; long live the hereditary practice.

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# Neither to the left nor to the right

SUPPOSE THAT they had met, Tony Blair and Isaiah Berlin, a Prime Minister and a liberal philosopher. Suppose that fortune had smiled and allowed them time to clarify what the left has stood for since the Enlightenment and whether those hopes remain alive. Suppose that illness and death had not supervened. What can we imagine them saying to each other?

The youthful leader is bound to have said the left is not dead. It is alive, and the Third Way is its name. It brings together the values of two progressive traditions, liberalism and social democracy, whose divisions delivered Britain up to the ideological hegemony of conservatism for most of the century. Reunited, under my leadership, the two strands of progressive thought will create a new consensus on the centre-left which will be in power for a generation.

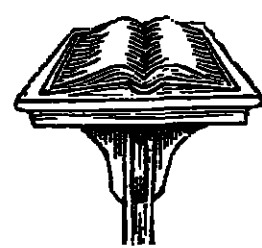
And what would the wise old sceptic have said to that? My guess is: Not so fast. Liberalism is one thing, social democracy quite another. We confuse them at our peril.

A dialogue between them

might have clarified vital questions: whether liberalism and social democracy do share the same values; whether they belong to the same family of the European left; and whether, now that socialism itself is dead, they should be resoldered together into a new governing consensus in Europe.

These questions lead to another: opposition is good for democracy; opposition is even good for a powerful government. As Conrad Russell has argued: "Without an effective opponent at the next election, Blair can acquire no great democratic legitimacy if he wins it." With Conservatism unlikely to extricate itself from its intellectual cul-de-sac, Blair's appropriation of the liberal tradition - and possible electoral agreements with the Liberal Democrats - risks neutering the one intellectual source from which effective criticism can come. Third Way talk is very good politics for Labour. But is it good for democracy?

Let's be clear: these are my questions, not the questions of my master and teacher, now deceased. But they do arise from the dialogue cut short by



PODIUM

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF  
*From the 'Prospect'*  
magazine lecture given  
by the writer at  
the Almeida Theatre,  
London

his death last October, and I think we should return to this dialogue now.

It began with a challenge issued by Isaiah Berlin. This was the challenge to which Tony Blair replied in a letter, on 23 October 1997, in which he took issue with Berlin's apparent judgement that, if socialism was dead, the left must be too. The left's project had begun with the Enlightenment attack on "arbitrary

authority, intolerance and hierarchy." These values "remain as strong as ever", but the Prime Minister conceded, "no longer have a ready-made vehicle to take them forward."

The Third Way, presumably, is the vehicle to "devolve political power and to build a more egalitarian community." So far so good, but we need to ask whether they both meant the same thing by the left. For many liberals, to be on the left is to be in company only marginally less disagreeable than to be in the company of the right. Nothing is gained by obscuring the differences.

To quote the Prime Minister, the liberal tradition "asserts the primacy of individual liberty in the market economy; the other (social democratic) promotes social justice with the state as its main agent." A social democracy that has said goodbye to state ownership has much to say to a liberalism that has said goodbye to "neo-liberalism", to unfettered free markets. In Blair's New Way, the banner is no longer actually inscribed "Equality", but two very liberal slogans, "Equal Worth" and "Opportunity for All", slogans which take social

democracy out of the project of fighting for equality of result.

So where, if anywhere, does a divide remain between liberals and social democrats? Here Berlin's famous distinction between negative and positive liberty becomes relevant.

Blair saw its relevance in his letter to Berlin, arguing that it was the "limitations of negative liberty" that have "motivated generations of people" to go "beyond laissez-faire".

But it's simply not the case that negative liberty means laissez-faire. It once meant much more: freeing men and women from superstition, tyranny and oppression; striking the chains off the slaves. Positive liberty goes further: it may not be enough to strike the chains; you may also have to teach them how to use their freedom. Positive liberty warrants compulsory primary and secondary education, compulsory taxation and transfer of income, public health.

There are still clear distinctions remaining between "negative" and "positive" liberty - it is the basic distinction between liberalism and social democracy as traditions.



# Feeding on Ethiopia's famine

JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

*'If we are guilty of genocide, Dimbleby, you should be here with us.' He wasn't joking*

I STOOD in the Central Jail in Addis Ababa surrounded by its 640 inmates, all accused of heinous crimes against humanity. One of them pointed at me, saying: "If we are guilty of genocide, Dimbleby, then you should be here with us." It was a disconcerting moment.

Twenty five years ago, in 1973, I was responsible for an ITV film called *The Unknown Famine* which exposed Ethiopia as a crumbling empire stricken by mass starvation. Within Ethiopia the film aroused shame and anger. As a direct result, *The Unknown Famine* became the catalyst for the overthrow of a feudal emperor in favour of that gruesome dictatorship which soon became synonymous with the name of Mengistu.

The prisoner who now sought to indict me was, like his fellow inmates, incarcerated for his alleged part in Mengistu's reign of terror which finally ended eight years ago. Facing his indignation, I countered: "I hope you are joking." He wasn't.

The atrocities for which he and his fellow inmates are now collectively indicted can tempt the unwary into nostalgia for Haile Selassie. It is easy to forget that the emperor used to authorise public hangings, that his opponents were routinely tortured, that courtiers who fell from grace were not only jailed but frequently held in chains as well, and that concepts of justice, liberty and democracy were effectively outlawed from public debate. Against that background, a group of dissident army officers instigated a creeping coup against the emperor's faltering regime. To guard against a public backlash in favour of Haile Selassie (who was still widely revered), they contrived to obtain a copy of *The Unknown Famine* which they intercut with images of Africa's grand old man presiding at a wedding feast in the grounds of his palace. Retitled *The Hidden Hunger*, this film noir was shown round the clock on Ethiopian television to coincide with the day that they finally summoned the nerve to seize the Emperor himself.

As propaganda, *The Hidden Hunger* had precisely the required effect. Not only the armed forces, but - with few exceptions - the peasants, the urban middle class, and the students gave enthusiastic support to a military dictatorship - promised to wage war on capitalism and imperialism and to liberate the toiling masses from the yoke of feudalism. Alongside this pernicious gobbledegook (which



The author visits a food distribution centre in Ethiopia during the making of tonight's documentary

incorporated such choice slogans as "Revolutionary Motherland Or Death"). *The Hidden Hunger* was a potent weapon: wheeled out at mass rallies all over Ethiopia to reassure the "masses" that the new regime was indeed on the side of the angels. Tens of thousands of young people, intoxicated by the televisual imagery of starvation and the rhetoric of revolution, signed up for Mengistu's cause and, without a second thought, became footsoldiers for genocide. Within five years the "red terror" - as the slaughter was officially known - accounted for at least 100,000 lives.

My accuser may or may not be guilty as charged but at least he is still alive. When he complained that he had been incarcerated without trial for seven years - "they want us to die here" - I was reminded of the day, 24 years ago, when 60 of the former Emperor's officials were executed by firing squad, without charge or trial, simply because Mengistu became impatient with the commission of inquiry that he had himself set up and opted for a little "revolutionary justice" to speed things up. In 1998, the special prosecutor's office may be inept,

arthritis and even corruptible, but at least it operates within a constitutional framework.

For my alleged part in the downfall of the Emperor, I became - unwittingly - something of a local hero. In this guise, I was free to witness and record Ethiopia's revolutionary torment until, in 1977, I could no longer restrain my revulsion. As a result, I was denounced as a traitor and declared *persona non grata*. By the time I was allowed back, a decade later, Mengistu's charnel house was, blessedly, about to be razed, but Ethiopia was economically and politically bankrupt.

The new government, which came to power in 1991, promised democracy and human rights for all. The prime minister, Meles Zenawi, is a former guerrilla leader who is greatly admired in Western chancelleries as one of the "new men" of Africa. But his record has been under intense, often critical, scrutiny by any number of international bodies. Under his leadership, Ethiopia is now a far more open society than it has ever been. Today, friends who had been too frightened to see me in the Eighties now speak without any con-

straint and - a gratifying irony - they debate openly the extent to which the government of Meles Zenawi uses the power of the state to suppress his critics.

Similarly, the chairman of the commission of inquiry, whose proceedings were so horrifically aborted by Mengistu's executioners more than two decades ago, has now resurrected himself as the Chairman of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. When Professor Mesfin Wolde-Mariam, a brave man and an eminent academic, fulminates against the "systematic" violation of human rights by the present authorities, his allegations cannot be ignored: he produced compelling evidence that extrajudicial killings, "disappearances", torture and illegal detention still persist. However, when he argues that there is now little to choose between Meles and Mengistu, the comparison seems grotesque. After all, as I remind him, he is now perfectly free to make precisely those charges.

A similar paradox surrounds the freedom of the press. Upwards of 70 private newspapers and magazines are now on sale in Addis Ababa. Many of them are scurrilous. Some

of them are personally abusive of the prime minister. A few promote ethnic hatred and - none too obliquely - terrorist subversion as well. None of them is censored, but news vendors are routinely harassed and editors are frequently detained in jail on a variety of trumped-up charges. Hard on the heels of Professor Mesfin, Amnesty International has joined the fray to condemn the government for suppressing the free expression of legitimate political dissent. Clearly irked by this criticism, Meles acknowledges that there are "flaws and blemishes" but claims that Amnesty has neither the means nor the time "to verify its allegations". This uncharacteristic show of prime ministerial hubris springs - I suspect - from deep frustration at the failure of Ethiopia's critics to place his dilemmas in historical perspective and at their refusal to appreciate the fragility of his authority as he seeks to lead his divided country from dictatorship towards democracy.

Ethiopia is culturally diverse and politically backward. Traditionally ruled by rival warlords who, until very recently, imposed their authority with the spear and

the rifle (mediated from time to time by the centre with severe military repression), its 60 million citizens are among the poorest on earth. They have never known freedom or democracy. Now, in an act of calculated desperation, Meles has tried to steer Ethiopia away from the persistent threat of terminal implosion by redrawing the constitutional map of the new federal state along ethnic lines.

It is a high-risk strategy. Although his party emerged all-powerful from Ethiopia's first quasi-democratic elections in 1995, Meles has started to devolve real power, which could easily be seized by rivals to destroy his survival strategy. As yet, Ethiopia is far from being a genuinely free society. Human rights are abused and democracy has yet to take root. Yet, when the prime minister volunteers that he looks forward to the day when he is removed from office via the ballot box and insists "either we have democracy or we disintegrate", I think he means it. I hope so: he is Ethiopia's best bet yet.

Jonathan Dimbleby's documentary *An African Journey* will be shown tonight at 10.40pm on ITV

## RIGHT OF REPLY

MIKE STOREY



The leader of Liverpool Council answers reports that his city's population is set to decline

THERE ARE lies, damned lies and statistics. And then there are statistics about Liverpool. According to the Office for National Statistics, Liverpool's population is going to decline by 8.5 per cent over the next 20 years, while thousands of Scousers head off to booming Cambridgeshire.

Well, it is the panto season and pantomimes are based on fairy tales...

What the Government's number crunchers appear to have done is look at trends over the last 20 years and assume the same thing is going to happen in the next 20. If the statisticians had got their noses out of their columns of figures and looked at what is really happening in Liverpool, they would have seen an entirely different picture.

The population exodus which undoubtedly happened during the past 30 years has now stopped. Some of the reasons for this are obvious - we no longer have people moving to new towns and the demolition of old blocks is over.

But other reasons might not be so obvious. We are reversing the trend where people leave Liverpool to look for work. While huge job losses are being announced elsewhere in the country, Liverpool has had a successful year in attracting industry.

At the start of the year, Ford announced that they were building the new baby Jaguar here, at Halewood, and Capital Bank AXA Direct and others are also investing in Liverpool.

The city centre is enjoying a renaissance. There is a vibrant night-life and fine sporting and cultural heritage. In 2007 Liverpool will celebrate its 800th birthday. We are confident we will do so as the European City of Culture. We have a vision of a thriving, optimistic city, achieved without the loss of population misguided forecasters predict.

# You can't hurry love, or the EU

IF THERE was a prize for the most tedious book title of the year, this one would surely win. Anyone who even remembers the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam deserves a small prize - and a fortnight's stay at the Europa Hotel in Brussels, all expenses paid. If he can name three treaty topics, Add the fact that the author is a diplomat and former Eurocrat and that his work comes with a fulsome introduction by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President (a kiss of death if ever there was one), and the omens are distinctly unpromising.

But persevere. Waded through all the jargon about reflection groups, inter-governmental conferences (IGCs), the three "pillars" of the union, and such niceties as the "triangle of institutional reform." Take this book



## TUESDAY BOOK

ORIGINAL SIN IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD: AN ACCOUNT OF THE NEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY OF AMSTERDAM

BY BOBBY McDONAGH, INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, DUBLIN, EIR15

for what it is: an account of the means, not the ends, of the elaboration of a treaty, starting one pleasant June weekend in 1995 and ending, not a second too early for 15 exhausted heads of state and government, at 3.35am on 18 June 1997.

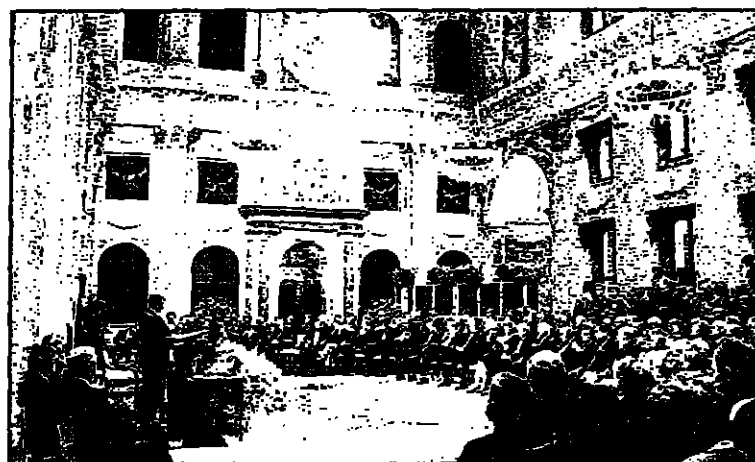
What emerges is a fascinating insider's account of how European, and indeed international, negotiations really work. Bobby McDonagh was a member of the Irish delegation,

and writes with those uncommon EU attributes of shrewdness, clarity and wit. As a serving diplomat, unfortunately, he is bound by the overpolite conventions of his trade; those "governments" that cause trouble are not named. Even John Major's wrecking boys get a fairly decent press.

The EU of which McDonagh writes is the real EU - not the evil Continental juggernaut of tabloid fantasy, piloted by pocket Napoleons and reborn Hitler. The beast is a plodding herbivore, not a rapacious flesh-eater. The Ford, federalism, has vanished from the agenda. No member country can be forced by this union to do something against its will. No leader has ever been forced to commit political suicide because of a commission edict. Yes, Europe was the issue on which Margaret Thatcher came to grief. However, her assassins were the Tories of Westminster not the bureaucrats of Brussels.

Parts of the book are for super aficionados only. Take this comment about streamlining voting methods: "It seemed clear, for example, that the decision-making mechanism for triggering the flexibility provisions would be akin to the new procedure under the Common Foreign and Security Policy, combining qualified majority voting with the possibility of exercising a veto." Clear? But the very obscurity reveals a vital truth.

The EU has to move at a snail's pace, from compromise to compromise, always incremental, always respecting the eternal verity of national interests. That is the original



The signing of the Amsterdam Treaty in 1997

sin which dogs the building of a brave new world. The method is messy, time-consuming and horrifyingly complex. But there is no alternative. For the system otherwise simply would not work. To use a title from the Supremes borrowed by McDonagh: "You Can't Hurry Love".

Equally obviously, the system is not perfect. First, the EU must get its people interested in what is (like it or not) the most important pooling of sovereignty ever undertaken by independent democratic countries, on which the future stability of our continent depends. Yet we remain mostly indifferent, our feelings about Europe similar to the job of soldiering: long periods of boredom, punctuated by moments of blind terror - or more accurately, blind hatred. Thus the recent great German tax scare, inspired by *The Sun's* "most dangerous man in Europe" - "Foxrot Oskar" Lafontaine.

So what can be done to liven things up and make Europe more comprehensible and relevant? Maybe a TV seminar by Bobby McDonagh after each summit might help: any Eurocrat

who likens the huddle at the final negotiation to "the crowd which gathers around the three-card trick man at a racecourse" clearly has a future as a popularising pundit. As for the tricksters, the 15 delegations themselves, they should be given the technology to play their hands electronically, registering choices by pressing buttons rather than by laborious handraising and headcounts. That would at least speed things up, as would other McDonagh suggestions for electronic real-time drafting of reports and documents, and for "chess-clocks" to limit the time of each delegation's intervention.

Even so, the Treaty of Amsterdam was probably unsaleable to the public at any price. It faked crucial decisions on institutional reform. The rest - on open borders, common security policy and "bringing the Union to the Citizen" - was never going to set pulses racing. Another IGC will probably be needed to fill in the gaps. If so, one may hope that Bobby McDonagh is around to chronicle it. And, this time, naming names.

RUPERT CORNWELL

## TUESDAY POEM

ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKET  
BY JOHN KEATS

The poetry of earth is never dead:  
When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,  
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run  
From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;  
That is the Grasshopper's - he takes the lead  
In summer luxury, - he has never done  
With his delights; for when tired out with fun  
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.  
The poetry of earth is ceasing never:  
On a lone winter evening, when the frost  
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills  
The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,  
And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,  
The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.

Our poems this week come from 'Field Days', an anthology celebrating the field and its 'partnership between humankind and nature', edited by Angela King and Sue Clifford (£10, inclusive, from Common Ground, PO Box 25309, London NW5 1ZA)



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# George Van Eps

"OF ALL the instrument's great exponents, none has taken chord-based playing to a higher plane - conceptually or technically - than George Van Eps, whose work as far back as the Forties set standards so high they have yet to be equalled."

The guitarist Jim Ferguson was being less than generous when he wrote those words, because Van Eps, who began teaching guitar in 1928 when he was 15, was already setting those unapproachable standards by the beginning of the Thirties.

Van Eps was a disciple of Eddie Lang, the man who dominated the field of jazz guitar until his death at the age of 29 in 1933. The early Thirties was the preserve of Lang's disciples Dick McDonough, Carl Kress and Van Eps. Then, later in the Thirties, came the hurricane called Django Reinhardt. But that's another story.

While Kress and McDonough stuck to Lang's traditions, Van Eps was an innovator. In his head he heard the guitar playing extra lines that were not possible as the instrument stood. So he redesigned the instrument with the fingerboard widened to include a seventh string.

Usually referred to as a "chordal" player, Van Eps disliked the term since it connoted him to what he called the "chomp-chomp-chomp" school of guitarists. The extra seventh string would not only allow him to play bass-accompanying lines on the instrument, but it opened up the confines that the six-stringed instrument imposed, making it far easier to create a wide range of chords.

"I wanted to spread the range, to have more air between the bass, tenor and treble lines. That way I could have moving voices without them all hanging into each other. His is no good at all," Van Eps said. His new instrument allowed him to play the bass role behind both his conventional chord work and his lead solos. It enabled him to think "pianistically", as he described it, and indeed he sometimes referred to his instrument as a "lap piano".

"They weren't just block chords," said Howard Alden, his disciple and 45 years his junior. "Every single sound in each chord was doing something, making sense." The two men recorded together five times from 1991 onwards and in that short period Van Eps achieved more exposure on record with Alden than he had during the whole of a recording career that had begun more than 60 years before. No wonder he was described as "a quiet legend amongst jazz guitarists". Alden, incidentally,

*Van Eps was an innovator. In his head he heard the guitar playing extra lines, so he redesigned it to include a seventh string*

had by his mid-thirties made more recordings than Van Eps did in his entire career.

If ever there was a musical family, then surely it was George Van Eps's. Fred, his father, was a sound engineer who was a famous master of the ragtime banjo. He had begun his recording career on cylinders in 1897 and was one of the best-selling artists of those early days. The climax of his career was recording an LP 60 years later.

He was a friend of George Gershwin's and the composer was a regular visitor to the Van Eps home. As well as being an expert in sound recording, Fred had great skills in conventional engineering and built what was thought to be the smallest operating miniature steam railway engine.

Van Eps's mother was a pianist and he had three brothers who were also career musicians - Bobby, a pianist with Red Nichols, Freddy, who played trumpet and wrote for Jack Teagarden's orchestra, and Johnny who played tenor saxophone for Tommy Dorsey. George taught himself to play the banjo and by the time he was 11 was working professionally. He also studied to become a watchmaker and learnt about engineering from his father. However a tour with Harry Reser's Junior Artists and a job with the Dutch Master Minstrels convinced him that his future lay in music. He first broadcast as a soloist when he was 14. His first experience with guitar was when Eddie Lang lent him one.

When he was 16 he bought his own guitar. "I wanted to throw the banjo away, but I still had to carry it around," he said.

"I'd go on a job and the leader would look at the guitar and say, 'What do you think you're gonna do with that?' and I'd say, 'I'm gonna play it.' Then he'd say, 'I'm gonna be able to hear it.' So I'd tell him, 'You don't hear guitar, you feel it.' And he'd come back with, 'We don't want to feel it, we want to hear it.' So I had a double case made and I carried them both around. Finally they got so they liked the guitar, and I was told I could leave the banjo home."

He joined the popular crooner Smith Ballew in 1929, staying for two years and working for the first six months alongside Eddie Lang as Ballew's accompanist. After that Van Eps joined Freddie Martin, who had the most popular sweet dance band after Guy Lombardo's, from 1931 to 1933. He began to solo on jazz records in 1934, by which time he had joined Benny Goodman's band, and he can be heard playing confidently with Jack Teagarden and Goodman on Adrian Rollini's "Somebody Loves Me" of that year. A few months later he soloed between Bunny Berigan and Teddy Wilson on Red Norvo's recording of "Bug House".

Goodman was about to move on to greater things, but Van Eps left him to join Ray Noble's band for a year before moving to Hollywood in 1936. His work as a studio musician there gave him security but kept him out of the public eye. It was at this time that he wrote a guitarist's manual and designed the seven-stringed instrument.

After a further period with Noble in 1941, Van Eps abandoned music professionally (although he continued to practise on his instrument for nine hours a day, as he always did when not working) and joined his father in the film and recording studios, and it was here that he spent most of the rest of his career. He recorded an outstanding trio session with the pianist Jess Stacy in 1951 and also soloed on some of Paul Weston's LPs.

In 1955 he had a role in the film *Pete Kelly's Blues* backing Peggy Lee as a member of the fine band led by the trumpeter Dick Cathcart. He continued the role in the television series that followed in 1959. He made jazz albums on his own (*Mellow Guitar* for Columbia in 1956) and with other studio musicians, notably in Matty Mallock's *Rampart Street Paraders*.

Further albums under his own name followed for Capitol in the Sixties, but serious ill-health curtailed his appearances at the beginning of the Seventies, although he appeared at jazz festivals until he broke three fingers in 1977. He toured Europe with the clarinetist Peanuts Hucko in 1986 and in 1991 made the first of



"Every single sound in every chord was doing something": Van Eps, second from left, with his collaborators, from left, Dave Stone (bass), Howard Alden (guitar) and Jake Hanna (drums)

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the exquisite albums for Concord Jazz with Howard Alden.

In 1993 George Van Eps came to England, proving with a season at the Pizza Express in London that he was still an eloquent and facile player in his eighties. In 1994 he made his final recording, another series of duets, this time with a fellow guitarist, Johnny Smith. He continued to be in demand and worked regularly in Orange County and Hollywood jazz clubs until he was forced to cancel his bookings when he developed pneumonia in October.

STEVE VOICE  
George Abel Van Eps, guitarist: born Plainfield, New Jersey 7 August 1913; married (one daughter); died Newport Beach, California 29 November 1998.

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## Claude Roussel

CLAUDE ROUSSEL, one of the founders of the Agence France-Presse, was not intended for a career in journalism.

He was from an academic family, his father Pierre Roussel was a distinguished Hellenist, and a member of the Institut de France. Claude was educated at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand in Paris and gained entry to the Ecole Normale Supérieure. All was set therefore for a successful career in the academic world, but everything changed with the Second World War and the defeat of 1940.

At the age of 21, Roussel entered the Resistance and was soon using his skills as a writer to produce pamphlets attacking Vichy and the Germans. In 1942 the Resistance organised its press and created the Agence Information et Documentation, which worked closely with Jean Moulin's Conseil National de la Résistance. The agency distributed information and combated Vichy and Nazi propaganda. It also helped to indicate the policies of the Resistance and was favourable to General de Gaulle's views on the future. In spite of his youth, Roussel was put in charge of this organisation.



In August 1944, as the first uprisings took place in Paris, Roussel, together with half a dozen armed men, invaded the Agence Havas on the Place de la Bourse and took it over. They needed a centre for the news agency that would play its part in the Liberation of Paris and France. It was in this way that the Agence France-Presse was created. The man who arrived from London and Free France, via the Normandy battlefields, to become the first President of the AFP, and who

*In his thorough modernisation of the AFP, Roussel's work has been compared to that of Gerald Long at Reuters*

was always known by the name that he had assumed when broadcasting in London, was Jean Marin. This large Breton, who was on friendly terms with General de Gaulle, took Roussel as his right-hand man and they worked together successfully for many years. In 1957 the agency was given a new statute and became an entirely autonomous organisation.

Roussel went on a number of missions abroad, including one to Scandinavia where he met his Swedish

wife, Asa. During the period of the presidencies of General de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou, Roussel was the Secretary-General of the Agence France-Presse. On a number of occasions news items and interviews diffused by the AFP led to controversy, notably an interview with the new Minister for Culture Maurice Druon.

This meant that when Valéry Giscard d'Estaing became President of the Republic in 1974 he was determined to reform the AFP. He accused it of being under left-wing influences; he objected to Jean Marin's constant loyalty to the memory of General de Gaulle. But, above all, he thought that an organisation such as the AFP should be controlled more directly by the state. He therefore succeeded in getting the then ageing Jean Marin to retire in 1975, and he was resolutely opposed to Claude Roussel's succeeding him.

A crisis was inevitable and it took three months for it to be resolved. Giscard d'Estaing chose as his candidate the then French ambassador to Brussels. He thought that this would make the AFP satisfactorily subservient to French

diplomacy. But newspaper editors were on the committee that elected the President of the AFP and, under the leadership of the editor of *Le Monde*, the case for independence of the agency, like the independence of the press, was imperative. Roussel was elected President for three years.

During these years Roussel carried out the modernisation of the AFP with great thoroughness and efficiency. His work in this respect has been compared to that of the late Gerald Long at Reuters. But, in spite of Roussel's acknowledged success, his political problem remained. Giscard d'Estaing was even more determined that, in 1978, Roussel would not have his authority renewed for another three years. Roussel had the additional disadvantage of having aroused some trade union discontent within AFP.

Some five days before the election was due, another press agency announced that Roger Bouzinac had been designated as the new President of AFP. It must be said that it is difficult to know the exact truth of what was happening in the world of the French press, but the directors

of two important regional papers, *Ouest France* and *Midi Libre*, had switched their allegiance to Bouzinac, apparently under pressure from the Elysée. Roussel's friends also say that he was offered attractive future employment.

The fact is that Roussel stepped down from the presidency of AFP in 1978, and for a time was given positions in the Ministry for Culture. The Director of *Le Monde* publicly stated that in his view Giscard d'Estaing's "princely behaviour" had been unfair to Roussel, who soon retired to the South of France, to Antibes.

I met Roussel briefly when he visited the Ecole Normale Supérieure in 1947. Rediscovering the academic atmosphere he was wondering whether or not he had been right to abandon it. In his retirement it is to be hoped that he found satisfaction in having played a vital role in creating the world's third largest news agency.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON  
Claude Roussel, journalist: born Paris 17 February 1919; married (one son); died Antibes 24 November 1998.

## Allan Griffith

ALLAN GRIFFITH made many notable contributions to global peace-making initiatives, particularly when Foreign Policy Adviser to the Australian prime minister Malcolm Fraser. He worked closely with Fraser throughout his eight years in office, from 1975 to 1983.

On Fraser's behalf, he shuttled between Canberra, London and Africa in a search for an agreed common basis for ending the civil war in Rhodesia and ensuring a peaceful transition from colonial rule to independent Zimbabwe.

The attitude of Nigeria was crucial. During his Canberra years, Griffith had befriended a visiting Nigerian army officer, Olusegun Obasanjo, later to become head of state. The Nigerian leader received Griffith when he was preparing the Australian position for Fraser to take at the approaching Commonwealth Conference at Lusaka.

Fraser and Griffith went to Lagos before Lusaka. Obasanjo's influence in securing African support for the Australian plan was said to have been a decisive factor in Margaret Thatcher's support for the terms of

the independence of Zimbabwe. These were subsequently negotiated at the Lancaster House conference in 1979. Griffith's appreciation of Thatcher was typical of him and welcomed by her.

Griffith was bulky, amiable and of somewhat dishevelled appearance, which belied a brilliant and intuitive mind. At a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Singapore, during the Cold War period, one of the delegates said to an Australian diplomat, "How did that Russian get in here?" The Australian reassured the questioner that the "Russian" was the Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister. Griffith protested that his suit was not only not of Russian cut, it was from Savile Row, but had been worn on several long flights.

In addition to his strategic overview of Australia's security needs in the Indian Ocean, because of his ability to get on with people he was deployed in domestic issues concerning the then formative government policy towards Australia's original inhabitants, the Aborigines. A Queenslander himself, he defused a quarrel between the then tough



*One delegate asked, 'How did that Russian get in here?' Griffith said his suit was not Russian, but had been worn on several long flights*

State Premier and Canberra concerning the preservation of the fragile and unique Great Barrier Reef. As early as 1957, Griffith contributed to a new relationship with Japan. The Japanese prime minister, Nobusuke Kishi, was due to visit Canberra, as part of a tour of the region to express apology for Japan's wartime aggression. Some ex-servicemen were angry. Griffith, as a war veteran himself, drafted a resolution of welcome on behalf of

the Returned Services League of Australia. (Veterans) Canberra Branch acknowledging the past, but looking to the future. This was adopted. The first post-war trade agreement between Australia and Japan was signed the following year. A Canberra *Times* editor described Griffith's foreign policy briefings as being as lucid as those of the Prime Minister himself. They were news and not just official handouts. In fact, he served a succession of

prime ministers in this capacity as he had a gift for conveying fruitful initiatives. Yet his origins were modest.

He was the son of a country butcher and grew up in the timber mill village of Jimna, near Brisbane. His post-war university education in Melbourne was provided by the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme as he had served in the Royal Australian Air Force, as a wireless operator in Papua New Guinea and Borneo.

In his student years he became associated with Moral Re-Armament, and this experience was a thread running through his career. When he retired, he devoted two years to quiet and effective work at the MRA/UN Center in New York, where he particularly reached out to Papua New Guinea and Cambodia. He was regarded as being a moving spirit in the 1991 Paris Agreement on Cambodia. This had earlier involved offering an outstretched hand to France with whom Australia had somewhat icy relations, due to reaction to France's nuclear tests in the Pacific and her policy on New Caledonia.

GORDON WISE  
Allan Thomas Griffith, civil servant: born Toogoolawah, Queensland 30 May 1922; Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia 1952-83; married 1958 Mary Ramsay (three daughters); died Melbourne, Victoria 23 November 1998.

Also after retirement, he was invited by Sir Zelman Cowan, former Governor-General of Australia, who had become Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, to pursue graduate studies there. He wrote a thesis on "Democratic Legitimation in Zimbabwe and Namibia", for which he received an MLitt and the Marchioness of Winchester Prize. His book *Conflict and Resolution: peace building through the ballot box*, a comparative study of the peace process in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Cambodia, was published last month.

This is of current relevance as he argues that settlements in these two countries accelerated the peaceful transition in South Africa and could be applied in other situations.

GORDON WISE  
Allan Thomas Griffith, civil servant: born Toogoolawah, Queensland 30 May 1922; Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia 1952-83; married 1958 Mary Ramsay (three daughters); died Melbourne, Victoria 23 November 1998.

## Edward Russell

THE AMERICAN basso cantante Edward Russell (formerly known as Edward R. White) was at the time of his death enjoying a successful career in the opera houses of the United States, and had also sung in Europe. His roles were steadily becoming more and more important, while his huge stature - he was 6ft 6in tall - and large, beautiful and resonant voice secured him a notable triumph as Hagen in *Götterdämmerung*, although his own sweet and gentle disposition was the exact opposite to that of the black-hearted Hagen.

However, despite this and many other recent successes, and a full engagement book for the future, Russell suffered from depression, and reacted strongly to incidents that others might consider trivial. While rehearsing the role of Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Cleveland Opera, he was upset by just such an incident, and took 80 of the pills intended to calm his nervous attacks. He was taken to hospital, but two days later hanged himself.

He was born Edward Russell White in Newark, New Jersey, in 1952. A prize-winner in the 1985 Baltimore Opera Competition, he was awarded a three-year fellowship with Opera Music Theatre International, New Jersey, under the supervision of the bass Jerome Hines and the conductor Henry Lewis. During the summer of 1986 he sang Stephano in the world premiere of Lee Hoiby's opera *The Tempest* at Des Moines Metro Opera, where he also took the part of Pistoletto in Verdi's *Fuotisti*. Engagements followed in Tulsa, Fort Worth, Lake George and Kansas; his repertoire now included *Lawyer Frazier* in *Porgy and Bess*, the Speaker and Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Monterone and Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, Timur in *Turandot* and Leporello in *Don Giovanni*.

Russell first came to prominence in 1989, when he sang the role of Prince Mstivoy in a concert performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Madama*, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas on National Public Radio, which was repeated in Pittsburgh. In May, Tilson Thomas gave a semi-staged performance of *Madama* - its London premiere - with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Hall, in which Russell also sang, gaining excellent reviews for the fine quality of his voice.

*Madama* was broadcast live on Radio 3 and a BBC television documentary was made on the subject. During the 1989/90 season Russell made his New York Metropolitan debut as the Undertaker in *Porgy and Bess*, a tiny role but nevertheless a big step forward in his career.

Returning to Europe, he sang several roles for VERA Radio in the Netherlands; they included Cecil in Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*, Prince de Bouillon in Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* and a French general in Prokofiev's *War and Peace*. He also sang Samuel in *Un Ballo in Maschera* at Nice and Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* at Antwerp.

Russell started his association with Cleveland Opera as Don Fernando in *Fidelio* in 1991, returning as Sparafucile, which he also sang in Milwaukee. In 1996 he scored his greatest success so far as Hagen in the so-called Grand Canyon Ring cycle staged by Arizona Opera at Flagstaff. His "huge, richly coloured tone" was duly commented upon, as well as his imposing stage presence. A magnificent future as a Wagner bass seemed to open before him.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON  
Edward Russell White (Edward Russell), bass opera and concert singer: born Newark, New Jersey 7 September 1952; died Cleveland, Ohio 29 November 1998.



"Huge, richly coloured tone"

After a very different assignment, Pluto in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* at Saint Louis in 1997, Russell returned to Wagner, singing the comic role of Daland in *Der Fliegende Holländer* in Cleveland and Fafner, one of the giants in *Das Rheingold*, at Dallas. He repeated Hagen in Flagstaff, then took on another comic role, Don Basilio in *Un barbiere di Siviglia*, at Austin.

The engagement to sing Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* was as a late replacement for another bass. He had only sung excerpts of the part in concert before, and apparently did not have time to master it completely before rehearsals began. Whether this fact had any relevance or not to the final disaster it is impossible to say.

ELIZABETH FORBES  
Edward Russell White (Edward Russell), bass opera and concert singer: born Newark, New Jersey 7 September 1952; died Cleveland, Ohio 29 November 1998.

صكدا من الاصل



# Paul Leyton

PAUL LEYTON was once described as "one of those rare, remarkable Englishmen who are slightly eccentric without realising it and who have a versatility close to genius". His career included the building of British space rockets, growing snails in a disused swimming pool, living in a self-converted double-decker bus, being a teacher, a Commander in the Royal Navy - serving on the world's first aircraft carrier, where he won the DSC - and the UK Engineering Director of Black & Decker.

From the mid-Fifties, he was Chief Rocket Development Engineer in charge of Black Knight, Britain's first rocket programme. He planned and implemented the building of the testing station, as well as the rocket, which in a typically uncompromising way, he sited on a cliff edge towering above the Needles on the Isle of Wight.

First launched in 1958, at Woomera in Australia, Black Knight captured the headlines and British newspapers hailed the achievement as remarkable for costing just £50m, only to have to set the record straight a few days later when it was confirmed that the budget was actually a mere £5m.

In the late 1950s, the United States were struggling to make their space rockets work properly. The fact that Black Knight was the first rocket of any nation to operate successfully on its first launch and to budget led to a *Daily Mail* cartoon of the time showing Harold Macmillan, dressed as a medieval knight in a black suit of armour, walking into a meeting of US space chiefs, surrounded by pictures of failed rocket launches, to offer his help.

Leyton was born in Leeds in 1914, but was brought up on the Isle of Wight. He was educated at Kingswood School in Bath, then joined Austin Motors in 1931 as an apprentice. He worked as a teacher for a few years, and during the Second World War served in the RAF, then the Air Branch of the Royal Navy. With the engineering experience he gained during his war service, he worked in various engineering jobs until in 1956 he joined Saunders Roe to work on the Black Knight project.

Encouraged by the success of Black Knight, Leyton wanted to press ahead and held realistic ambitions for a British orbital rocket, but the Government were less eager to continue and so he resigned. He moved into the commercial business sector as Engineering Director of Black & Decker from 1959 to 1961, but his next step soon came when, looking to opt out of the rat-race, he decided to buy a country pub. He found a hostelry in Somerset called the Miners' Arms, in Priddy, which gave the newspapers the ideal opportunity for headlines such as "Countdown gentlemen, please".

However, his new pub wasn't even a year old, but an unremarkable restaurant that had lost its pub licence over half a century earlier. Despite neither Leyton nor his wife having any catering training or experience, the Miners' Arms was soon voted one of the most interesting restaurants in the UK by *Raymond Postgate* and featured in *The Good Food Guide* and *Egon Ronay's Guide*.

Always on the lookout for the unusual, Leyton discovered that snails, known locally in the Mendips as wallfish, had been a low-cost dish on the menu of the local mineworkers up to a century earlier. Unheard of in the UK at the time, snails were domesticated and anglicised by Leyton with the creation of a snail sauce based entirely on local ingredients, with no garlic.

Leyton's engineering background still shone through in the world of catering: first, with the design of an electric fence to keep up to 100,000 snails at a time in a disused swimming pool; and then, with the introduction of the freezing of prepared snails and other complete dishes. This led to considerable debate in gastronomic circles at a time when freezing was only considered suitable for basic ingredients. Egon Ronay himself was provoked into writing to *The Times* expressing his doubt over such practices whilst acknowledging that "Mr Leyton is a unique exception, because of his scientific background and his individual perfectionist attention to the process of cooking and freezing".

*'Mr Leyton is a unique exception,' wrote Egon Ronay, 'because of his scientific background and his individual perfectionist attention to the process of cooking and freezing'*

Further exploiting his technical knowledge, Leyton developed an insulated container that would keep food frozen for days, followed by a patented "Leyton Tempstick" that indicated if food had ever exceeded a safe temperature. The two inventions allowed him an early entry into the food mail-order business.

Constantly searching for new ideas to introduce into the restaurant, in 1973 he started brewing his own ale and the Miners' Arms became the smallest licensed brewery in the country. The growing reputation of the pub saw an increasing clientele which included Egon Ronay, Delia Smith, Terry Wogan, Kate Adie, Malcolm Macdonald, Anthony Hopkins and Lord Sief of Brimpton.

Leyton made a number of appearances on radio, as an expert on snails, and, shortly before he left the Miners' Arms, the BBC devoted a programme to him under the title *A Man of Independent Mind*.

When he retired at the age of 63, Leyton still wanted to do things his way and he moved into a modern mobile home which became his and his wife's home for the next year whilst they toured the country looking up old friends and caring for disused National Trust properties on the way.



Leyton, a former rocket scientist, designed an electric fence to keep up to 100,000 snails in a disused swimming pool John Timbers

This was a return to his lifestyle of almost 30 years earlier when, in 1948, he had purchased a double-decker bus and spent six months converting it into a mobile home. Complete with Aga for cooking and heating as well as hot running water, the bus served as a home for him, his wife and their first three sons for almost five years and was featured in *Picture Post*.

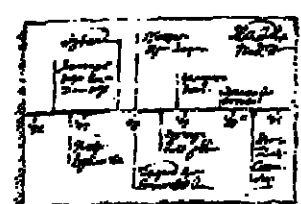
When they had tired of travelling Britain in their mobile home, Paul and Nancy Leyton returned to the Isle of Wight, where they had grown up as next-door neighbours. Leyton's spirit of adventure did not desert him even in retirement. They moved into a little cottage overlooking the Channel, with no mains water: electricity gas or drainage. Leyton then designed and built a series of windmills to recharge a bank of batteries that served as the only means of power in the house.

He served as a local councillor on the Isle of Wight for a number of years, devoting much of his time to studying, analysing and reporting on the rapid erosion of areas of the south-west coast of the island. He was able to devote more of his time to his lifelong passion for writing poetry and piano music. Much of his work had an amiable irreverence to it, typified by the "Lion Song" written for the Marquess of Bath, a regular customer of the Miners' Arms, which is today stored in the Old Library at Longleat. Leyton also helped in the initial design of the fencing at Longleat when the lions first arrived.

When in 1990 Nancy Leyton was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease the couple were compelled to leave their cottage, and returned to Ventnor, where they had first met 70 years earlier.

JULIAN LEYTON

Paul Henry Leyton, engineer and restaurateur: born Leeds 1 June 1914; Chief Rocket Development Engineer, Saunders Roe 1956-59; Engineering Director, Black & Decker 1959-61; married 1939 Nancy Crinane (died 1993; four sons); died Ventnor, Isle of Wight 4 November 1998.



## HISTORICAL NOTES

ROBERT RHODES JAMES

# Brave, decent heir to 'a rocking throne'

IT IS now axiomatic that every American then alive, and indeed people throughout the world, can remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard of the assassination of President Kennedy.

But my generation had exactly the same experience when they heard the announcement of the death of King George VI on the morning of 6 February 1952. As I discovered, my reaction of disbelief, followed by shock, was universal. He was, after all, only 55, and, although it was known that he had been seriously ill, we were wholly unprepared for this. So, as it happened, were his doctors.

As he died over 46 years ago, it is not altogether surprising that he has been largely forgotten, although the astonishing vitality and longevity of his widow, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, provides a unique personal link with a man who should not be forgotten.

Although my book on the King's political role, and that of his predecessors, is not a biography, his personality is obviously a major element in his political vicissitudes and achievements, and my respect for him increased.

In many respects his is a romantic story. He suffered consistent ill-health as a child and young man, having to be invalided out of the Navy suffering from a duodenal ulcer after having served in HMS *Collingwood* in the Battle of

Jutland; when recovered, he joined the fledgling Royal Air Force, and became a qualified pilot. He was ill-educated, shy and tense, and suffered from an appalling stammer and furious temper. But, as his father noted with admiration, he had "guts". The turning-point of his life was his marriage to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon: with her devoted help the dreadful stammer was mastered, although on public occasions never fully conquered.

He took a deep interest in industrial matters, founded the famous Duke of York's camps for boys from private and state schools, visited Australia, New Zealand and East Africa, fulfilled his public duties, and enjoyed the life of a countryman with his wife and small daughters.

Neither he nor his wife expected, or wanted, to accede to the throne, and certainly not under the bizarre circumstances of December 1936 when his elder brother abdicated to marry Mrs Simpson, leaving the new King George VI, in his own phrase, to inherit "a rocking throne".

He and the Queen not only stabilised it, but by their conduct in the war, and especially in the terrible period of mortal danger in 1940-41, won the admiration and affection of the British people. What was even more remarkable was that he totally lacked self-confidence, and his notorious temper could flare up over

trivialities. But it was striking in the private diaries and letters of those who worked with and for him that their admiration for him never wavered. He was fundamentally a brave, decent, and kind man in a world that had gone mad.

A man who was not only respected but esteemed by such disparate people as Churchill, Attlee, Roosevelt, Bevin and Bevan - another stammer sufferer - was certainly exceptional. His influence became strong, and not least because he was so exceptionally well-informed - much better, in fact, than most cabinet ministers.

But the strains of war destroyed his health. An attempt to recover it by a visit to Southern Africa in 1947 had the opposite effect. By 1948 he was seriously ill with thrombosis which was to kill him - not with lung cancer, as has often been claimed - and also had to endure the loss of India, Burma, and Ceylon. But his vision of the New Commonwealth, espoused by his elder daughter and successor, has survived.

Churchill, in his tribute to the King in the Commons on 11 February 1952 described his demeanour in the dark days of 1940-41 as that of "a spirit undaunted". But it also fittingly describes his whole life.

Sir Robert Rhodes James is the author of *A Spirit Undaunted: the political role of George VI* (Little, Brown, £22.50).

# Discretion on whether to release psychopath

ON AN appeal pursuant to section 64 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 for the discharge of a patient subject to a restriction order, the provisions of section 17(1)(a) (i) and (ii) of the Act were relevant considerations for the sheriff to take into account when considering whether the patient was or was not suffering from mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for him to be detained in hospital for medical treatment, but they were not decisive in favour of a discharge.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of the Secretary of State for Scotland against a decision of the Inner House that the respondent's appeal for discharge from a state hospital should be allowed.

The respondent had been convicted of culpable homicide when he was aged 17. The court had taken the view that he was suffering from a mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1980, namely mental deficiency, and had ordered his detention in a state hospital under s 55 of the Act. The court had also made a restriction order without limit of time under s 60 of the Act. His detention had subsequently been regulated by the provisions of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984. The respondent was no longer suffering from mental deficiency; he was, however, said to have a psychopathic personality.

His appeal for discharge under section 64 of the 1984 Act had been refused by the sheriff on the ground that, were

## TUESDAY LAW REPORT

8 DECEMBER 1998

Reid v Secretary of State for Scotland  
House of Lords (Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton)  
3 December 1998

he to be released, there would be a very high risk of his re-offending, and that his offending would be likely to have a sexual connotation.

The Lord Ordinary had refused his application for judicial review, holding that, following the decision of the English Court of Appeal in *R v Canons Park Mental Health Review Tribunal*, ex p A [1994] 2 All ER 659, it was open to a sheriff to refuse to order the discharge of a psychopathic patient even though his condition was no longer regarded as treatable.

The Inner House had allowed the respondent's reclaiming motion, holding that section 64 could not be treated as wholly independent of the terms of section 17 of the Act, and that, accordingly, the fact that the psychopathic disorder was no longer regarded as treatable was decisive in favour of a discharge.

Matthew Clarke QC and Robert McCreadie (Treasury Solicitor) for the appellant; Graham Bell QC and Simon Collins (Balfour & Manson) for the respondent.

Lord Clyde said that, in considering an appeal under s 64 of the 1984 Act, a sheriff should first, so far as section 64(1)(a) was concerned, decide whether at the time of the hearing the appellant had a mental disorder. If he had not, he was obliged to order a discharge.

He should, otherwise, identify the nature and degree of the disorder, consider the nature and effectiveness of any possible hospital treatment, and, where the appellant was a psychopath or had a mental impairment which was not severe, should consider whether such treatment was likely to alleviate or prevent a deterioration of the condition. If satisfied that such treatment was not likely to do so, he was bound to grant a discharge.

If not so satisfied, however, or if dealing with any other kind of mental disorder, he should consider the propriety of the appellant's receiving the medical treatment in detention in hospital, and, in so doing, look to the nature and degree of the mental disorder. If he considered, in the light of all the evidence and in all the circumstances, that it was not appropriate for the appellant to be detained in a hospital for medical treatment, he should discharge him.

The circumstances which the sheriff might consider could include the health and safety of the patient and the safety of other persons, including members of the public; that was to say the propriety, as distinct from the necessity, of his continued detention in hospital.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

# GAZETTE

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

### DEATHS

RAY: The private cremation of Robin Ray, who died on 29 November, took place on 3 December, donations to Marietta Hospice, Rome, if desired. A celebration of Robin's life and work is planned for the New Year on a date to be announced.

Announcements for GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet, addresses the Royal College of Defence Studies, London SW1, and attends a reception for the White Ensign Association at Buckingham Palace; and, as Patron and Trustee, attends a reception at St

## BIRTHDAYS

Miss Kim Basinger, actress, 44; Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, 73; Sir Julian Critchley, former MP 68; Dr Susan Danby, Principal, Royal Academy of Dancing, 54; Professor Sir Roger Elliott, physicist, 70; Mr Lucian Freud, painter, 76; Mr James Galloway, 59; Sir de Villiers Graaff, former leader, South African United Party, 85; Mrs Pauline Green, MEP, 50; Mr Ian Greig, cricketer, 43; Sir Geoff Hurst, footballer, 57; Mr Stephen Jefferies, cricketer, 41; Lord Levease of Portoken, Lord Mayor of London, 57; Miss Jenny Linden, actress, 58; Mr Terry McDermott, footballer, 47; Sir Jonathan Parker, High Court judge, 61; Lord Prys-Davies, solicitor and politician, 75; Sir Stephen Richards, High Court judge, 48; Sir Bernard Rix, High Court judge, 54; Mr Maximilian Schell, actor, 68; Mr Michael Unger, Editor, *Manchester Evening News*, 55; Mr David Verey, chief executive and chairman, Lazard Brothers, 48; Sir William Wood, former Second Crown Estate Commissioner, 82.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus), Roman poet, 65 BC; Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, 1542; James Grover Thurber, wit and cartoonist, 1894. Deaths: Thomas Cornille, playwright, 1708; Thomas De Quincey, writer, 1859; Gertrude Jekyll, landscape architect, 1832; Golda Meir (Goldie Mabovitch), Israeli stateswoman, 1978; John Winston Lennon, musician, shot in New York 1980. On this day: Pope Pius IX promulgated the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, 1854; Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol, was opened,

## ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER

A Service of the Royal Victorian Order will be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, at 11am on Thursday 20 April 1999, followed by a reception in the State Apartments of Windsor Castle for all members and medalists of the order attending the service.

Due to the limited seating capacity of St George's Chapel, tickets for the service and reception will be restricted to members of the Royal Victorian Order and holders of the Royal Victorian Medal only. Please do not apply for tickets for spouses,

or other guests. Honorary members and medalists are not eligible to attend.

Members of the order and medalists who wish to attend should apply for a ticket as soon as possible, and not later than Friday 12 March 1999, clearly stating their name, address and grade within the order. They should also state if they require a parking permit.

Application should be made to the Registrar of the Royal Victorian Order. The Central Chancery of the Orders of the Knighthood, St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BH.

## LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Catherine Lever, "Three Erotic Artists: Matisse, Bacon and Duchamp", 1pm.

University College London, Gower Street, London WC1: Professor Ken Binmore, "How and Why Did Fairness Norms Evolve?", 1.15pm.

Association, attends a reception given by the Friends of Queen Alexandra's House at Kensington Gore, London SW7.

1884: the first traffic lights were erected in Westminster, London, 1888. Today is the Feast Day of The Immaculate Conception, St Eucharist, St Patapius, St Romaric and Sophronius of Cyprus.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

The Library Association's Royal Charter Centenary celebrations at the British Library, London NW1; and, as President, Save the Children Fund, attends a Festival of Trees Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum, London SW7. The Duke of Kent presents the annual Torch Trophy Trust awards at Simpsons (Piccadilly), London W1. Princess Alexandra, President of Queen Alexandra's House

Association, attends a reception given by the Friends of Queen Alexandra's House at Kensington Gore, London SW7.

## WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
mucilaginous, *adj.*

IN A gettable quiz one would not posit a link between the author of *Urne-Buriall* and such movies as *Blood Simple* and  *Fargo*. Edith Coen, their co-director, has now published a volume of stories, its Dylanesque title *Gates of Eden*. Some are good, and all show a penchant for words that would be swiftly slung

Thomas Browne in *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* (1646) to mean slimy, and the OED's last instance is an 1884 volume about diseases of the nose and throat. Coen, however, uses it adroitly of a plate of beef stroganoff. Perhaps, at luncheon today, more promising pupils will use it to test their teachers in school canteens.



# Waiting for Dobbin

He's not tall or rich and won't make your head spin. But neither will he sleep with your best friend. Here's to the real hero of *Vanity Fair*. By Louise France

It wasn't the climactic love scene we're used to in our Sunday night costume dramas. There was no Darcy-style skinny dipping as *Vanity Fair* drew to a close at the weekend. No heaving cleavages or clandestine games of footsie under the crinoline petticoats. After 10 long years, solid, faithful Dobbin got his girl and how did he celebrate? He wrapped Emma in his arms, gave her a cuddly bear hug and kissed her... on the forehead.

"You'll never leave me, will you?" said Frances Grey, who for six weeks managed to play the part of an Amelia Sedley without once appearing to visit the make-up caravan. "I'll never leave you," said Dobbin (aka actor Robert Glenister) firmly. And dear reader, as the credits rolled up, the nation went to bed more than content with the way events had turned out.

For it isn't often that men like Dobbin get to be heroes. For weeks the newspapers have been fascinated by the real-life Becky Sharps: scheming vixens who'll do anything to get what they want. No one was interested in Dobbin, the real hero of *Vanity Fair*. And no wonder - in William Make-

peace Thackeray's novel, and the BBC adaptation, he is reliable Dobbin, kind Dobbin, safe Dobbin. Adjectives which make him sound about as exciting as a bottle of luxury fabric conditioner.

Even Andrew Davies, the man who adapted *Vanity Fair* for the screen, was disparaging when he talked about Dobbin on Radio 4. "He's hardly the kind of man you'd want as a dinner guest is he?"

For Dobbin and his real-life counterparts are not the kind of men who hold forth at parties with endless anecdotes in which they always seem to emerge as the heroes. They do not make women's heads swivel as soon as they walk into a room. They are not, as a rule, tall, dark or handsome.

But then again neither do they blow you out, fail to telephone when they said they would, or sleep with your best friend.

Don't get me wrong. Dobbin men are not doormats. But at the same time they are not going to make your stomach do flip-flops.

Men like Dobbin are reliable and kind and loving and make great husbands. Unfortunately, as a general rule, women are incapable of discovering the delights of a Dobbin until they've been hurt a few times, says Julia Cole of Relate.

"Scientists believe that as soon as flirtation starts there is a release of the chemical phenylethylamine. This chemical gives you the kind of feelings you get when you're drunk - extreme pleasure, dry mouth, dizziness. We imagine that we can't be in love until we meet a man who gives us this feeling of being on the edge. Yet, ultimately, these aren't the men who make us happy."

Even celebrities, veritable adrenaline junkies, are coming to appreciate the delights of a Dobbin. Only last week there were reports that Jerry Hall, going through daily humiliation as her marriage to Mick Jagger looks increasingly shaky, has befriended property developer Guy Dellal. OK, so he's too rich to be perfect Dobbin material. But Dellal is hardly a rock star and worldwide sex symbol, either.

Jerry didn't meet Guy at a backstage catwalk party. Rather, they were introduced at the Bar Mitzvah of a mutual friend's son five weeks ago (Dobbin would have approved). Neither is Guy your classic-looking hero. A good few inches off six foot, he is, shall we say, folkily challenged. Friends are quoted as saying diplomatically, "Guy is obviously very different from Mick, but that is part of the appeal for Jerry. Looking at him you would not think he was in the same league as Mick. But Jerry says it's the other way around." What Guy is good at, apparently, is listening (a trait of any Dobbin). Bastards are notoriously self-obsessed.



A girl's best friend is her Dobbin: Robert Glenister, the long-odds outsider who finished first

BBC

Jerry could do worse than look to Hollywood for inspiration. For years, Anjelica Houston dated Jack Nicholson, who in the meantime seemed to be dating everyone else. Now she's with the sculptor Robert Graham. He is not mega famous, or handsome, or as rich as Jack. He looks, if truth be told, like Father Christmas' kid brother. But he makes Anjelica happy - "I'm very settled," she said. "He encourages me with everything in my life. That devotion makes such a difference."

Even Sharon Stone has seen the light. Earlier this year, she announced her engagement to Phil Bronstein, a newspaper executive who, judging by appearances, seems to have all the charisma of Belgium.

She admits the marriage came as a surprise. "This really is a new life for me. It's nothing that I anticipated."

Elizabeth, 31, dated rogues through her early twenties until she met Andrew, her husband. Her prerequisites for the ideal man had always been: handsome, good job, sexy. "I'd always thought love meant having butterflies in your stomach, waiting by the telephone, the whole ghastly rollercoaster of relationships. When I met Andrew it was completely different. Suddenly there was this man who actually seemed to like me, who was nice to me."

"It came as something of a revelation that love didn't have to mean pain. Here was this man who was wooing me for once and it felt fabulous. The problem is that, when you're used to rogue men, this kind of affection comes from left field."

And how would she describe Andrew? "He makes me feel safe and happy," she says simply.

Joanna met Steve six years ago. They were friends on and off for years (Dobbin relationships often spring from long-term friendships).

Joanna hates the idea that their relationship is pigeon-holed by her friends. "Friends would always say 'Oh I wish I had someone like Steve, he's so reliable'. Which seemed to be damning him with faint praise."

"The truth is that, yes, he is reliable. But that doesn't mean to say he's boring. People too often presume that they mean the same thing. He's a laugh. We're good friends, and that's why it works." Joanna's point is a good one. All too often we dismiss Dobbin relationships for being safe and dull and, by extension, not very sexy. We assume that people who choose affection over adrenaline go to bed with nothing more exciting than a book and a hot water bottle.



Dobbin, anyone? Jerry Hall; Guy Dellal; Mick Jagger; Sharon Stone and Phil Bronstein; Anjelica Houston and Robert Graham



Rex/Desmond O'Neill/Rex

## Should I stay or should I go?

Leona has decided maths is not for her. But she's not sure what is. By Cayte Williams

**LEONA**  
was studying  
Maths

**RACHAEL**  
studying  
Art History

**ROSIE**  
studying  
French

**DAVID**  
studying  
Management

**TASH**  
studying  
Management

**ALISTAIR**  
studying  
Management

**DANI**  
studying  
Biology

**IAN**  
studying  
Geography

**ROBBIE**  
studying  
Economics

IT'S THAT time of year again. People wander happily down the street with bags of tinsel or carry conifers over their shoulders. Yes, it's that Christmas tree moment, and it's not passed our students by. But they're doing it in their own way.

Robbie explains. "There's a deserted hotel near to us which has just been knocked down, and in its garden is an avenue of conifer trees. Alistair, Rosie, Dave and I went there with my meat cleaver and chopped one down and brought it back." They hauled the six-foot tree over an enormous garden wall, avoided oncoming police cars, and dragged it home in the moonlight.

Its new home is a bucket of bricks in the kitchen. It'll be lucky if it lasts until next week. Still, there is a plus side. "I sprayed it with half a can of fly killer because it had all these greenfly and spiders over it and I nearly killed the tree," confesses Robbie. But at least all those other nasties in the kitchen will have got blasted too.

And it's not exactly the best-dressed Christmas tree in town. "We haven't got around to buying any decorations," says Dave, "so we've just improvised with cans of beans, ice-cream pots, bags of crisps and shoes. Anything that was on the floor at the time, really." Martha Stewart would faint.

Meanwhile, Leona is feeling a little out of control, much like the Christmas tree. After two terms of trying to stick it out, she has given up on her Maths and Management course. "I finally decided to give up college a couple of weeks ago, because I wasn't organised enough to do the work. The management part of the course was fine, but I hadn't done maths since A level, and it was way too difficult. So I got into the habit of not going to lectures."

Leona fell into that old student trap. You're not at school anymore with nagging teachers. You're not at work where if you don't do what you're sup-

### THIS STUDENT LIFE



WEEK 7 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

posed to, you're out on your own. At university anything goes, as long as the essays keep coming in. When it comes to motivation, you're on your own.

Her tutor and head of department noticed her absence and suggested she take the rest of the year off and start again next autumn. "At first they were supportive," she recalls, "but then I didn't turn up for a few meetings so I think they ran out of patience."

"Maybe I'm just not suited to being a student," she considers. "It's not that I don't have any sense of responsibility. I've had jobs where I've always turned up on time and been conscientious. I've never had a problem there. It's just being at university that has made me lazy."

Trouble is, Leona rather put the cart before the horse. She didn't get the grades she wanted at A level, but definitely wanted to go to Manchester Uni-

versity. She had to go through clearing (a system which finds courses for students who didn't get the grades required for their original choices) and was finally offered a course in Chemistry at Manchester. That didn't work out, so she then got a place on Maths and Management.

Leona realises she's made a mistake. "I just chose whatever course was available rather than what was best for me. And I chose difficult courses. If I decide to try for another degree, I'm going to look for a good course rather than put the college first." And there are other options. "I don't even know if getting a degree is the right thing at the moment. I might take a year out and get a job. I might even go abroad for a while."

The whole trauma has made her feel slightly at odds with the rest of the house. "I feel like I've failed because everyone else is working so hard on their essays," she says. "This is the first time I've ever been in a situation where I don't know where I'm going."

The person she turns to is Tash, who always comes up with good suggestions and understands how Leona feels. "Everyone else says, 'Why don't you just go to your lectures?'," explains Leona. "They can't understand what I'm doing. Tash just listens and tries to give me good advice."

Although Leona wants to stay in Manchester, she's beginning to realise that her best bet might be to go back home to her little village near Coventry and start all over again. "Most of my friends at home have gone to university," she says, "and so there would be nobody around." Still, Leona's got some big decisions to make and some priorities to sift. If she really wants to get a degree she has to go home, re-evaluate why she wants a degree and decide on a course that would suit her. After all, a degree is for life, not just for Christmas.

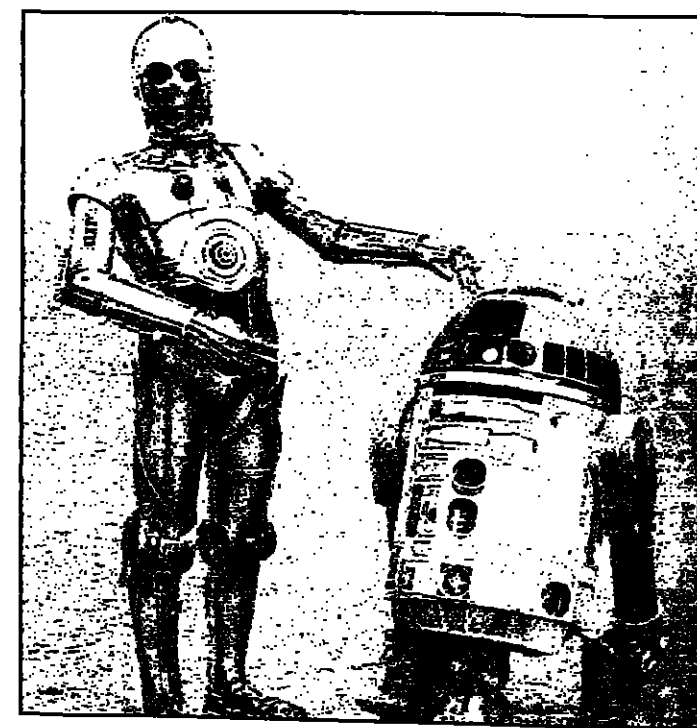
### THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

23. 'STAR WARS' BY ROSS JONES

AMERICANS ARE such lucky bastards. I've spent most of my adult life envying their huge cups of coffee, low-priced electrical equipment and 24-hour showbiz news cable channels, but I have never envied them more than I did on 17 November. Because that day, anyone in America who could take the day off work, be in line by 10.45am and pay \$7 for entry to an Arab-bashing Denzel Washington film called *The Siege*, got to be among the first in the world to find out whether Ewan McGregor really knows what to do with a lightsabre.

The rest of us had to work much harder to see the new *Star Wars* trailer - waiting hours for it to download, watching it on a piddling screen, not being able to hear a word of Yoda's wisdom. But it was worth it. This is no simple movie trailer. After three years of secrecy, improbable casting rumours (at one point it was almost looking as if Brookside's Sinbad would be playing Obi-Wan Kenobi), leaked plots and silly, obviously made-up character names (even if Qui-Gon Jinn turned out to be true), this felt like the first peek of flesh in the longest striptease of all time. So far, the verdict has been unanimous - va-va-voom!

I'd like to say that waiting for the new *Star Wars* film to appear makes me feel like a little boy again, but it's much better than that. The only way I made it to the pictures in those days was by tagging along with my big sister, which meant that I saw a ton of disco-flavoured musicals, but very little sci-fi. So, I improvised. Before seeing *Star Wars*, I'd familiarised myself with the plot by arranging the official trading cards scene-by-scene along the garage floor. The Death Star



C3PO and R2D2 in 'Star Wars'

shoot-out didn't exactly leave me breathless, but I got the gist.

Like most kids, I loved *Star Wars*' shameless strip-mining of every space cliché in the book - robot sidekicks, hairy aliens, heavy-breathing villains - but it wasn't until years later that I came to appreciate its finer points. The sexy-but-innocent sparks between Leia and Luke; the notion that an old geezer with an Oxbridge accent could take down an evil empire with what amounts to an elongated lava lamp; the scene showing an Imperial Stormtrooper banging his head on the ceiling; the fact that although he was making the coolest film of all time, George Lucas was the kind of man who made Steven Spielberg look like a hepcat. More than anything, I love

*Star Wars* for proving a fundamental truth about popular culture: adults know nothing. The studio almost ditched it. Harrison Ford thought he was above it ("You can type this shit, George," he told Lucas, "but you can't say it"), and it is to the detriment of this country's film industry that Lucas's sullen British crew openly referred to ape-like Chewbacca as "the dog".

It was left to the scruffy little idiots of my generation to see the magic in *Star Wars*. Which is why I get so angry when Ewan McGregor - a scruffy little idiot if ever there was one - starts complaining about how tedious it was to play Obi-Wan Kenobi. Ewan, you need reminding of something: you're such a lucky bastard.



# The diva's not for spurning

The soprano Cheryl Studer has sued Munich opera house who dropped her because they said her voice was damaged. What's been going on? Is there more to this altercation than meets the ear? By Philipp Blom

The central concern of Weber's opera, *Der Freischütz*, is sureness of touch and the art of hitting the target. In the opera, it is the protagonist, Max, who is selling his soul to the devil in an effort to shoot straight, but at the current production in Munich, it is his sweetheart, Agathe, whose ability to hit the target is in doubt.

Cheryl Studer, who was engaged to sing the part, was found by the management to have severe vocal problems which had only become apparent during rehearsal. It was thought that her intonation was too secure for the house to take the risk of having her as the leading lady after all. Now Ms Studer, whose fee for one performance is £10,000, is suing the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, for a loss of earnings amounting to a total of £100,000, including another set of cancelled engagements, in which she was supposed to sing in *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss.

"There is a particular profession by now, the travelling singer," says Dr Roland Felber, the managing director of the Bayerische Staatsoper, who believes that Ms Studer has over-extended herself. Dr Felber regrets the acrimonious situation between the opera house and the singer, who was an ensemble member of the Staatsoper in the early Eighties. "She has probably

been singing too much and we think that, at the moment, she is not up to the role. These things have happened before with other singers, and we have always found a gracious way out," he comments. "I am sure we would have been able to find a good solution here as well."

The decision to relegate Ms Studer to the reserve cast is thought to have been made by the management, in conjunction with the conductor of the production, Zubin Metha. It was Ms Studer herself who

ishing schedule would take its toll on all but the most exceptional voices. The combination of the physical and emotional strains of continuous performances with those of constant travelling are a hazard every performer has to take into account. In addition to this, singers have to train and maintain a group of tiny and highly specialised muscles, their vocal cords, which usually take some time to adapt from one type of use, such as coloratura singing, to another, such as the

the singers, this culture produces enormous opportunities as well as dangers. They can quickly gain international exposure and are liable to strain and ruin their voices in the process, singing more demanding roles more often than they might otherwise do. This has contributed to a string of "shooting stars" on the operatic scene, who appeared to wide acclaim, only to vanish into relative obscurity after a few seasons.

The case brought by Ms Studer is seen as a test case for possible similar disputes. With many engagements made years in advance, they can often turn out to be an expensive gamble on the future state of a voice, especially with singers nearing the end of their career. The case will also show how much power opera houses like Munich have over stars like Cheryl Studer, and whether it is possible to resist the phenomenon of the travelling singer, whose career choices and itinerary may be at variance with the requirements of individual engagements.

Meanwhile, Ms Studer's replacement as Agathe in the *Freischütz* turned out to be less than an unqualified success. Described as "not yet ready for the role" by a critic, her aria "Softly sighing, day is dying" was a sigh too soft for the audience, while her more famous colleague transformed her absence from the stage into a shrill shriek of protest.

*Cheryl Studer's life of constant strain is widely believed to have damaged her voice*

made the disagreement public, after the opera had tried to settle the issue quietly.

Cheryl Studer, 43, has sung extensively all over the world. In this year alone, apart from the *Freischütz*, she appeared in Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*, *Tannhäuser*, *The Valkyrie*, the *Rosenkavalier*, *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss, and *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss, as well as numerous recitals. In the past two years, she also sang in works by Verdi, Beethoven, Mozart, Strauss, Bartók, and Wagner. She has recorded works by more than 30 composers, ranging from Italian bel canto to heavy dramatic roles.

It is only logical that such a pun-

heavier repertoire. Constant demand in opera houses and concert halls around the world, and the necessity to plan for years ahead, provide a great temptation to ignore the demands for rest made by the voice. In the case of Cheryl Studer, this life of constant strain is widely believed to have damaged her voice, a fact that has raised concerns before this incident.

The age of the travelling singer has had two distinct effects on the operatic world. From the public's point of view, there is only a small handful of international singers and conductors appearing in certain operas, and performances can be very similar, whether they are held in Zurich, Milan, or New York. For



Cheryl Studer's vocal problems became apparent during rehearsals

PAL

## 'HOW CAN I WORK WITH THESE PEOPLE?': DIVAS IN DISPUTE



SUCH WAS the sweetness of her singing that managements spent years swallowing hard over the temper tantrums of soprano Kathleen Battle. At the San Francisco Opera, the crew took to wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the legend "I Survived the Battle". After her years of arguing with conductors, storming out of rehearsals, and reducing fellow singers to tears, the managing director at the Met sacked her for "unprofessional actions detrimental to the artistic collaboration among cast members".



ONCE HAILED as opera's real-life Romeo and Juliet, Roberto Alagna and his wife Angela Gheorghiu have more recently been described as Bonnie and Clyde. Jonathan Miller was furious at Alagna's cavalier attitude to turning up to rehearsals. When Gheorghiu refused to wear a blond wig as Micaela in the Met's production of *Carmen*, the management replaced her with her understudy. When the pair of them wanted control of the production for *Traviata*, management replaced them both.



JESSYE NORMAN, allegedly the world's highest paid soprano, has a luscious voice, a regal stage presence, and a rather dormant sense of humour. She has a reputation for meticulous stipulations about the non-usage of air-conditioning and a complete ban on smoking backstage at any house scheduled to employ her. She recently hit the headlines with her failed Appeals Court attempt to win damages from *Classic CD* magazine who published a remark about her size which she deemed defamatory.

## Ice queen without equal

TO CELEBRATE the end of their 30-year residency at St George's, a beautiful Waterloo church, whose spacious acoustics has made it one of the best recording venues in Europe, the Brodskys invited a very special guest. The news that the guest was to be Björk made this the musical event of the year for Bristol, and the 500 seats could have been sold 10 times over. An opportunity to see arguably the most interesting pop artist of the age in an intimate hall, where the sound and the setting pressed to flatter rather than degrade her gifts, was a chance in a million.

That it would become a performance that most of the audience will probably count as the best they have ever experienced was something no-one could have predicted. For Björk with the Brodskys - who had previously opened for her on

### MUSIC

THE BRODSKY QUARTET  
WITH BJÖRK  
ST GEORGE'S, BRISTOL

the Post tour - wasn't just great: her artistry was so complete, so deep and profound, that by the end you felt less like a punter at a gig than the witness to some rare natural wonder, such as a solar eclipse.

The string quartet opened brilliantly with a composition by Peter Sculthorpe in which the strings' twittering austerities echoed the calls of Australian birds. Then Björk appeared, dressed in a white cardie over a long oriental dress. If an opening Icelandic poem seemed pitched at a rather lofty aesthetic distance, the series of emotional open wounds that followed - songs taken mainly from the *Homogenic* album -

were viscerally direct, with the lyrics' unflinching autopsy of failed relationships given an even rawer edge by the sawing strings of the quartet.

Though clearly nervous and reticent at the beginning - she had only encountered the Brodskys' arrangements that afternoon - Björk quickly began to unwind. Both her voice, with the hard-won expressionist effects benefiting from the minimal amplification, and her movements grew steadily more adventurous. Soon she was perched on the prow of the stage with her toes curling over the edge, as if to peer into the abyss her most personal songs so bravely address. From the front row, so close that the fibres of her cardie drifted down into your lap, the emotional heat was almost unbearable.

The second half was, if possible, even more intense than

the first, with "Anyone Who Had A Heart", a grandstanding "It's Ob So Quiet", and another Icelandic poem. The fact that Björk has been touring with strings as well as a programmer concert (and the amplification was so minimal that she sang off mike with no evident weakening), suggested that she may not quite have found her sympathetic context yet.

Whatever the future may hold, at 32, Björk could easily become, if she wished, one of the world's leading "straight" concert attractions, for her poise, balance, and the poetry of her lyrics, are without equal. This concert was recorded, and will hopefully surface soon. It needs to, for even those of us who were there - and the audience included Roni Size, Krust, and a couple of Fortisheads - can't quite believe it. PHIL JOHNSON

## Driven to destruction

### THEATRE

THE KILLING OF SISTER  
GEORGE/SUMMIT  
CONFERENCE  
CITIZENS' THEATRE  
GLASGOW

However, Eva Braun and Carla Petacci are not so far removed from Sister George (as the actress is generally known off screen as well as on). She responds to her imminent televisual demise by lashing out at those around her, especially her younger lover Childie. As she seeks solace or takes retreat playing the dominatrix to Childie's girlish victim, the chain-of-repression scenario is obvious enough - rather too pat to shed much real light on the issue, besides being rooted in some rather dated stereotypes of lesbian behaviour.

A more interesting angle of

approach, especially in our own era of docu-soaps and human-zoo talk shows, would be George's continual blurring of her own and her character's personality. But while director and designer Kenny Miller attempts to point up this dimension, editing out the original period references and putting Jerry Springer on George's TV at the start, again Marcus himself fails to delve sufficiently into the psychological dynamics he sets out.

The four-strong cast, especially Anne Myatt as George and Ellen Sheehan as her increasingly sinister producer, bring as much complexity as they can to their parts, together with a good deal of humour, but ultimately the play defies their efforts.

The two lead characters in *Summit Conference* certainly don't lack in complexity, speaking not only in their own

voices, but periodically in the guise of their respective lovers, parties and countries. MacDonald's characteristically rigorous dramatic disquisition explores all manner of power-plays - personal and political, sexual and military - together with the mental and emotional contortions that are required to either justify or deny injustice.

Exploiters and exploited both, the two women come across as far more than mouthpieces for MacDonald's moral philosophising, thanks equally to the honed suppleness of his language and to laser-sharp performances from Anthea Hart and Kathy Kiera Clarke, pitting icy elegance against kittenish shrewdness as, respectively, Braun and Petacci.

Until 23 December, box office: 0141-429 0022.

SUE WILSON

## Return of the Old Romantics

John O'Reilly discovers that Eighties New Romanticism was, and still is, all about broken-hearted nostalgia

IN ONE sense, The Big Rewind Tour, comprising Culture Club, The Human League and ABC, sold itself on its sheer nostalgia appeal. And despite the longevity of these bands, they didn't seem wasted by age. There was ABC, fronted by the ageless Martin Fry, whose image from their very inception sold the idea of adult pop, or, to the cynic, wine-bar pop. There was The Human League's Phil Oakey, whose closely cropped hair emphasised in your imagination all the more his previous incarnations as an androgynous hairdresser. And Boy George, the grand dame of the evening's panto, was just a plumper version of his former self.

But the strange thing was that, as the crowd sang along to ABC's "Look Of Love" and The Human League's "Mirror Man", you realised that the defining feature of all these

bands the first time round was a premature nostalgia for the past.

They all sang of love gone wrong, as in songs such as "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me": "You've been talking but believe me/ If it's true you do not know/ This boy loves without a reason/ I'm prepared to let you go." They sang of lost innocence, as in ABC's "All of My Heart": "Once upon a time when we were friends/ I gave you my heart. The story ends/ No happy ever after now we're friends." And even in the eccentric but moving lyrics of The Human League, of lost heroes cut down by an assassin in "Seconds": "Outside was a happy place/ every face had a smile like the golden face/ For a second/ Your knuckles white as your fingers curled/ A shot was heard around the world."

In matters of style, Martin Fry took his haircut, if not his entire look,

from Bryan Ferry, while Boy George went one better by aping the whole of Roxy Music, though tonight George was more reserved, wearing a simple black suit set off by a semi-religious headpiece. It is a trademark of George's that if his headgear were any bigger, it would

*As Boy George said: 'Here's another song of a bitter romance you all know about'*

need planning permission.

The fact that the audience sang along to so many songs underlined the fact that all these bands came of age in the debris of punk, re-inventing the three-minute pop single with simple pop hooks that

grabbed the listener despite incomprehensible lyrics such as on ABC's "Look Of Love": "If you judge a book by its cover/ Then you judge the look by its lover." These bands wrote love songs in a post-punk era that was thoroughly knowing about the debased vocabulary of love. Their songwriting marked a return to the ethics of Tin Pan Alley without ever quite believing in it. And that is true nostalgia. But above all, the evening was, for many, nostalgia about nostalgia. Part of the crowd of over 9,000 could only have experienced flashy, decadent, Eighties culture through the luxury of extra-dry Pampers.

Like all pantomime, at the heart of the evening were a few parables. Firstly that we need clichés, especially pop clichés, to make sense of our emotional life, to feel that we are not alone. As Boy George said,

introducing "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me": "Here's another song about a bitter romance that you all know about." And he wasn't just referring to his relationship with Jon Moss. Secondly, that the gender divide between rock and pop is breaking down. At the NEC, there were as many men singing along to tales of tragic romance as women.

And perhaps the biggest surprise of all was the audience's response to Boy George, which suggests he has been out of the mainstream for too long. He is a showman; a trouper whose gravelly voice, he explained to the crowd, was a result of the flu. In an evening dripping with nostalgia, George's appeal rested in the fact that he is a real star in an age of shallow celebrity.

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper



Boy George disguised as Roxy Music (including Eno)



# The tree of knowledge

Grinling Gibbons's carvings are playful, sophisticated and genre-defying. Which all sounds a bit post-modern. By Tom Lubbock



Gibbons's portrayals of game (above left) are more than just ornament, while his signature curls round what may be a carved tree trunk

Curiosity is the word. Looking at Grinling Gibbons's work, you want to be a TV camera. You want your eye to do something which the normal eye can't do – to pan very closely, slowly, curiously over an unfolding landscape of detail, inquisitively caressing the intricate, involved forms of stem, leaf, flower, apples and pears, grapes and nuts, pea-pods and ears of corn, cherubs and birds, fishes, crabs, lobsters, sea-shells, pearls and lace.

Curiosity was the word John Evelyn used, when he told in his diary how he'd discovered the unknown, young wood-carver at work in darkest Deptford. "I asked if I might come in, he opened the door civilly to me, & I saw him about such a work, as for the curiosity of handling. I never in my life had seen before in all my travels."

He meant something directly admiring – curiosity in the old sense of fine, careful workmanship. But visit the Grinling Gibbons show at the V&A, and you'll see an art that can claim the word's full range of meaning: craft and bizarre and inquisitiveness. It's a prying chisel that makes these feasts for prying eyes.

Actually, this neat tale of obscure genius found by chance, like most such tales, may not be quite true. A lot isn't known about Gibbons's beginnings or who taught him. But for certain he didn't stay obscure. When he died in his seventies in 1721, his work was everywhere, adorning all the grander bits of Stuart England – St Paul's, Hampton Court, numerous churches and big houses – with his swags and festoons. He's the

*When Grinling Gibbons died, his work was everywhere in Stuart England*

top English decorator between the gothic masons and William Morris. His work has seldom lost its appeal.

"There is no instance of a man before Gibbons who gave to wood the loose and airy lightness of flowers, and chained together the various productions of the elements with a free disorder natural to each species," wrote Horace Walpole, an 18th-century fan. This is illusionism of a high order; plastic woodwork.

Very fine; but what keeps Gibbons curious, what keeps him current, is something else. Technique, however triumphant, only goes so far with us. We want – well, almost everything we want now, Gibbons seems to have got. It would be quite wrong to see him as a naïvely expert imitator of natural forms. He's a sophisticated. He's very conscious of his artifice. He is conceptually playful. He's weird and sensuous and a little disturbing. He's a borderline case. He might have been made for today.

He's a genre-bender, for one thing. You can't quite say where his work should fit. Is it ornament? You'd certainly want to call his very substantial carvings of fruit, veg and dead game more than decor, more than a dinner-table centrepiece. Then again, most of Gibbons's work consists of framing devices – "surrounds" and "overmantels" to give them their proper names – borders that go round pictures or doorways, or just enclose empty areas of wall. But these are frames designed to steal any scene they hold. Free-standing frames could compete. Free-standing frames. Still-life sculpture (an otherwise almost non-existent genre). There aren't really names for what Gibbons makes.

Or think about the relation of medium to image. There's a striking contrast of coarse, soft petals done in crisp wood. But in another way there's a neat match. It's like when Bernini stands a figure on a rock that's carefully carved from marble, or has his David hold a carved pebble. You might call it an early sort of found object, but that's just what it's not. It's a re-found object, a paradoxical double, a thing represented in its own material.

You have this effect continually, if subliminally, in Gibbons: "Vegetable forms made out of a vegetable medium," as the show's curator, David Esterly, puts it. And Gibbons's minutely prying chisel creates a similar echo. The way it gets into and stresses every cut, groove and ridge of nature – the leaf's veins, the fish's scales, the lobster's joints, the strands of a feather – persuades you that nature itself is curiously carved.

There's doubling, paradox, self-reflexiveness all over. You find Gibbons sculpting representations of already sculpted things (like medals). You find wood-carving, indeed, that represents woodcarving (musical instruments like recorders). You find a natural raw material carved alongside its man-made version (eg a bird and a quill pen). Further, you find natural forms carved alongside man-made things that imitate those natural forms (eg flowers and lace with a floral pattern). Curiouser and curiously.

The Cosimo panel, a free-standing trophy-piece, a gift from the Sharrs to the Florentine court, is Gibbons's masterpiece. Its cluster of natural and man-made images is a busy network of cross-reference and self-reference. All the effects just mentioned are used – and then elaborated. The bird and quill are picked up by the feathered flights of a bunch of arrows – whose shafts are wood. Meanwhile, leafy twigs are echoed by coronets, whose crenellations imitate leaf-shapes.

The recorders are a clear case of woodcarving wood carved, but they're also distant inheritors of a natural form, the primitive reed pipe. There's a book of sheet-music, paper carved in wood (get it?). Finally, Gibbons's own signature is set on a carved ribbon which curls round what may be a carved tree-trunk, or maybe – the coup de grâce, it would be – a carved chisel: his raw material or his tool?

These associations aren't just performed on a conceptual level and press of matter: interleaved and intertwined, fuses the disparate elements into symbiotic composites. Or, on the other hand, come off it! This description makes Gibbons sound like he should be up the Turner Prize, for heaven's sake. Can't be right, surely? Can't it? For if you think all these points of curiosity are evident anachronisms, a wilful post-modernisation of an honest old English craftsman, and very

far from anything his contemporaries could have thought, think again. It may be that the only anachronism is our confidence that our values are unprecedented.

*Gibbons's prying chisel stresses every cut, groove and ridge of nature*

The Luscious Clusters of the Vine Upon my Mouth do crush their Wine

The Nectarine and curious Peach Into my hands themselves do reach

Curious, again. Exquisite, strange, inquisitive. These are the very words. Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving: V&A, South Kensington, London SW7: to 24 Jan

Actually, these points were fully alive in Gibbons's culture. Take the poet, Andrew Marvell, about 30 years his senior. His work is full of just such self-conscious doublings and reflexiveness. Art is mixed with nature. Things are compared to themselves. An eye is likened to a tear, bottles stand fettered in feet and manacled in hands. There's sensuous prostitution, and confusion, and things cooking alive.

Much of Gibbons's work might almost be an illustration to Marvell's *The Garden*, where:

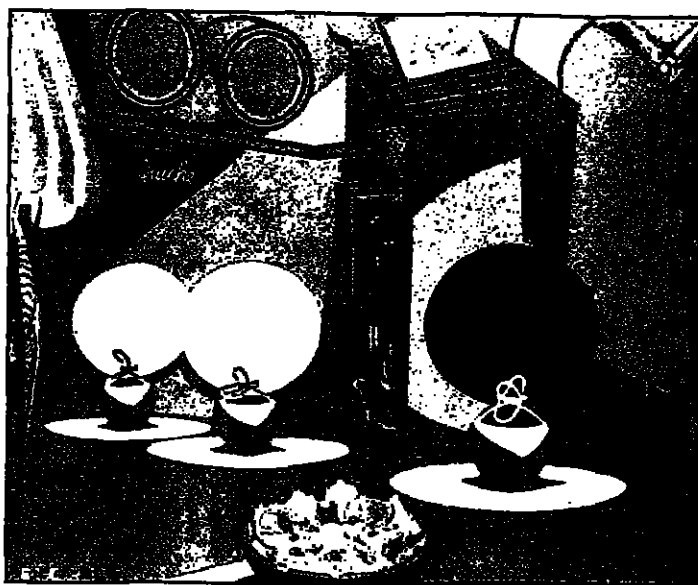
The Luscious Clusters of the Vine Upon my Mouth do crush their Wine

The Nectarine and curious Peach Into my hands themselves do reach

Curious, again. Exquisite, strange, inquisitive. These are the very words. Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving: V&A, South Kensington, London SW7: to 24 Jan

## THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: PATRICK CAULFIELD



Patrick Caulfield's 'Wine Bar', 1983

PATRICK CAULFIELD'S big, bright, barren-looking paintings of interiors are being strongly recommended by corporate art consultants. Curators of company art collections reach for their cheque books when the name of this 62-year-old artist, is whispered in the same breath as those of his more famous contemporaries, the Pop artists Hockney, Blake and Jones.

They note that his paintings look "modern" but not too modern, and are interested to hear that the Hayward Gallery, in collaboration with The British Council, has just announced a big show of his work, in February, which is bound to increase his prices.

In fact, Caulfield has always distanced himself from Pop art. Although he uses Lichtenstein-like black outlines, he eschews the garish commercial and

advertising imagery that was the stock-in-trade of the Young Contemporaries he rubbed shoulders with at the RCA in the early Sixties.

The difference between Caulfield's art and Pop art is that, instead of reproducing obvious, high-impact images, such as the Campbell's soup can, he chooses images that are less familiar – such as the decorative features of a wine bar – but that are, nevertheless, part of the furniture of everyone's brain.

I asked him whether his paintings celebrated the banality of the man-made environment, or deplored it. "Neither," he said. "I am merely creating something from my memory. And once I start creating something, I start to feel more and more affection towards it. My interiors are imaginary, and I begin to warm towards them in terms of ideas,

feelings, qualities of some kind."

Take his *Wine Bar*, for example, shown here, painted in 1983. It is ghostly. Or, rather, most wine bars are ghostly. Caulfield's painting of an imaginary one is not. He has observed, selected and represented those most wine bar-like features that stick in the memory of anyone who has ever set foot in one: the pair of wine barrels, displayed theatrically, out of reach. The classic, period-style mahogany cornice with concealed lighting, upon which is propped a framed old print, also out of reach, indecipherable in the gloom, and probably never dusted. Caulfield dipped his hands in black paint and smeared something in the print's frame, to make the point. "Things look like that when you've had a few in a wine bar," he says.

You could sit, a little tipsy, in a wine bar, and gaze at the word "Quiche" on the blackboard (Bruce Feirstein's *Real Men Don't Eat Quiche* was published in 1983) – or the aloe-like mother's tongue plant, which will surely become extinct the day that wine bars become extinct. They are all Campbell's soup cans of a sort. The difference is that we, and not the advertising industry, have embedded them in our brains – Caulfield has chosen to remind us that they are there.

The globes of light around the (tunsean) candles in the Chianti bottles are objectified as solid elements of space. Perhaps the bar's designers intended something of the sort. But they would not have bargained for Caulfield's globe of black light. He explains: "Matisse used that device to create the feeling of light that is not there."

All the imaginary iconic elements, minimally stated, are integrated into a composition that is Caulfield's own.

*Wine Bar* is a massive 5ft by 8ft painting that adorns the apartment of a New York lawyer, who says he would not part with it for even £500,000.

Caulfield's paintings are very rarely seen at auction, but the £8,625 paid at Christie's last month for his 36in by 24in *Pipe and Jug* of 1973, is indicative of his rise in value – five years ago Sotheby's sold his complex 21in by 30in *Glazed Earthenware* for a mere £1,495. His dealer, Waddington (0171-487 8611), is offering Caulfield oils for between £8,000, for a comparably sized simple image *Pipe and Jug* of 1973 and £73,000 for an early work of 1964, his 36in by 84in *Perfume Jar*.



# HEALTH

Spinal manipulation, by chiropractors and osteopaths, is growing in popularity – but its effectiveness is disputed, and how exactly it is supposed to work? Professor Edzard Ernst concludes our series on complementary treatments

## Have you got the backbone?

**B**one-setters have been practising in Europe for millennia. More recently, two distinct North American schools have evolved and have been subsequently re-imported to Europe: chiropractic and osteopathy. They collectively represent the most popular of all complementary therapies in the UK. They are, of course, not identical, but share enough common ground to be summarised as spinal manipulation.

### What is it?

In the words of a therapist, spinal manipulation "is a skilled passive movement to a joint or spinal motion segment, either within or beyond its active range of motion".

Both chiropractors and osteopaths used to insist that the cause of practically all illness and disease lay in the malfunction of the spine and other joints of the body. Even today, the belief is that some "malalignment" or "subluxation" of the vertebral column is at the root of many health problems, most prominently back pain. This basic assumption is still the source of much controversy. On one side, proponents are keen to show evidence suggesting that spinal malalignment exists with back problems. On the other, opponents are adamant that these have no clinical relevance and can be demonstrated in many individuals who do not have back pain.

### What happens during therapy?

Responsible therapists would take a detailed history and carry out a thorough physical examination focused on the spine. Very often, X-rays of the spine represent the next step. Eventually a diagnosis would be established; it may, however, not be as reliable as one would hope: one patient sent to five different chiropractors got five different diagnoses.

The main aim of the therapy is usually to manually re-adjust "malalignments" or "subluxations" of spinal joints, and to restore proper joint function. Various methods are used for this purpose. Osteopaths frequently restrict their treatment to gentle mobilisation techniques, while chiropractors use more forceful manipulations – "high velocity thrusts".

During treatment, the patient would normally lie on a treatment bench and the therapist would use her hands for manipulations and mobilisations. The treatment itself is not normally painful, but the patient

may hear a somewhat disturbing cracking noise from their back. Chiropractors and osteopaths also tend to employ treatments "borrowed" from other therapies. These range from massage to dietary advice.

Few British doctors practice spinal manipulation. The chiropractors' and osteopaths' professions are in the process of acquiring statutory regulation. Physiotherapists, who have been properly regulated for a long time, may also practice spinal manipulation. The consumer can therefore be confident that therapists are adequately trained.

Usually, treatment needs to be repeated, and about 10 sessions, each taking 15-40 minutes, would normally constitute a full series. On average, UK chiropractors charge £39 for a first visit and £22 for a follow-up, while for osteopaths these figures amount to £20 and £18.50.

### What is it for?

By far the most important indication is back pain (followed by neck pain). Proponents claim that chiropractic and osteopathy are helpful for many other conditions (see Box 1).

Because of the huge sums of money at stake, the big issue is whether or not spinal manipulation is effective for back pain. In 1992, an influential US medical journal published a systematic review, apparently showing that the evidence was positive for acute uncomplicated low-back pain; for other types of back pain it was not compelling. This article eventually led to the integration of chiropractic into the guidelines of several countries (including the UK) of how acute back pain should be treated. Much doubt has since been cast on this notion.

A critically important new study convincingly shows that patients with acute low-back pain, who have received either a series of chiropractic manipulations or physiotherapy, or no treatment at all, experience roughly the same outcome. Only the total healthcare costs were remarkably different: in the two years that followed, they were about three times higher for the former two groups compared to the latter group.

Chiropractors often cite the trial of the UK Medical Research Council in defence. They say it favoured chiropractic over physiotherapy. This trial, however, is much misinterpreted as both its treatment groups received spinal manipulation.

Many therapists claim that spinal manipulation will also prevent further

back problems. Considering the huge economic burden which back pain represents to society, this is a testable hypothesis of some importance. The unfortunate, yet undeniable, fact is that, so far, it has not been properly tested.

So the hard evidence for or against the efficacy of spinal manipulation for back pain is still highly inconclusive. But this does not mean it is proven to be ineffective. We need more and better trials to make sure.

### What are the potential risks?

Manipulation of the upper spine can damage blood vessels which run up this part of the spine and supply the brain with vital oxygen. If this happens, a stroke or even death ensues. Forceful manipulation can also cause a spinal fracture in patients with brittle bones. This, in turn, can leave the patient paralysed. Such complications seem to be extremely rare, but no convincing data exist to demonstrate exactly how often this, or other serious side-effects, happen. Two Scandinavian studies of high quality agree that mild, transient, unwanted side-effects occur in about half of all patients (see Box 2).

Chiropractic is also associated with much neglected, but potentially important, indirect risks (see Box 2). Chiropractors make liberal use of X-rays. Critics argue that this does not meaningfully contribute to the diagnosis, causes unnecessary expense, and can harm patients.

### Conclusion

Spinal manipulation therapies are complementary treatments, mostly used to treat back pain. Research has not shown whether they do more good than harm.

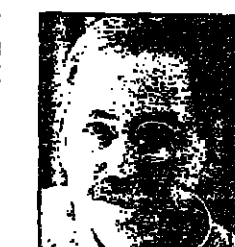
Addresses of some professional organisations: British Chiropractic Association, 29 Whitley Street, Reading RG2 0EG; General Council & Register of Osteopaths, 56 London Street, Reading, RG1 4SQ. Further reading: Murtagh J, Kenna C. Back Pain and Spinal Manipulation. Butterworth Heinemann, 1997.

This is the last part in the series. Here are some recommended books for lay people, covering all complementary medicine: Cassileth B R, The Alternative Medicine Handbook, W W Norton, New York 1997; Fugh-Berman A. Alternative Medicine: What Works. Odomian Press, Tucson, Arizona 1996; Ernst E (Ed), The Complete Book of Symptoms and Treatment, Element, 1998.



Spinal manipulation has yet to prove its case in clinical trials BSIP VEM/Science Photo Library

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

**WHAT IS** the statistical risk of contracting HIV infection after unprotected vaginal intercourse with an HIV-infected partner? The risk of being infected by the HIV virus following one episode of unprotected vaginal intercourse with an infected partner is extremely difficult to predict, with estimates ranging from between 0.1 per cent (1 in 1,000) and 20 per cent (1 in 5). The risk is higher following anal intercourse between male partners. This raises the question of whether someone who is exposed to the risk of HIV infection should be given anti-HIV drugs, in the hope of preventing an infection developing. Health workers who accidentally prick themselves with needles that are potentially infected with HIV are recommended to have a month's treatment, with a cocktail of drugs, in order to reduce their risk of becoming infected. It is possible that this same cocktail may reduce the risk of infection for someone who has been exposed to HIV through sexual contact. You could think of this as the HIV equivalent of the "morning after pill". A big difference, however, is that treatment consists of two or three powerful drugs that must be taken for a month, starting within hours of exposure. Seek urgent advice from an STD clinic if you think you may have been exposed to HIV infection.

**IS IT** possible to catch genital herpes from someone who has cold sores around the mouth? There are two related herpes simplex viruses – HSV-1 and HSV-2. HSV-1 is the virus that usually causes cold sores around the mouth, and HSV-2 usually causes genital herpes, but either form can infect either area of the body, so it is possible to catch genital herpes from cold sores.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to [health@independent.co.uk](mailto:health@independent.co.uk). Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally.

## Even the gentlest shake can kill

When babies cry, some adults shake them. They might as well drop them head first on the floor. By Ed Walker

THERE ARE many things that put infants' lives at risk, such as congenital abnormalities, infection, or childhood cancer. Now there might be one more to add to the list: crying.

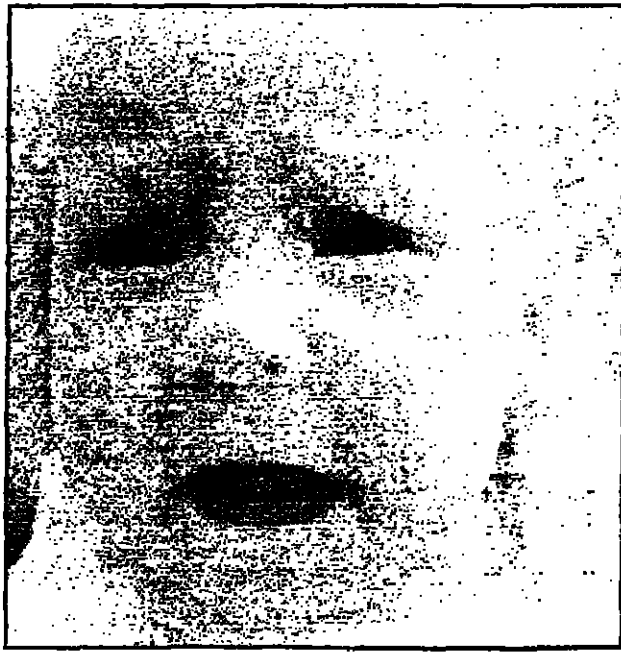
In a recent survey in Holland of 2,000 two-month-olds, mothers were asked what methods they used to soothe an inconsolable child. While most used traditional remedies such as rocking or a pacifier, 8 per cent admitted to slapping or shaking their child.

The dangers of shaking an infant were discussed in the trial of Louise Woodward, and here a registered childminder was convicted of the murder of a toddler in July, allegedly by shaking him. 50,000 cases of "Shaken Baby Syndrome" occur in the United States every year, one in four resulting in a fatality.

The controversy starts even with the name. Some doctors claim it should be called the "Shaken-Infant Syndrome", as in laboratory experiments it is impossible to reproduce the forces needed to cause the damage observed in real life, without striking the dummy's

head on a hard surface. Others say these experiments are too simplistic, and ignore the fluidity of brain tissue in living babies. They cite the example of a "snowstorm" paperweight. Hitting it with a hammer may impart the maximum force, but shaking it gently a few times is what really gets things swirling about chaotically.

The principal brain injury caused by shaking is a "subdural haemorrhage", caused by the tearing of small veins inside the skull. Blood leaks into the subdural space, the dura being the outermost of the three layers of meninges, the membranes that cover the brain. Small bleeds may have very vague consequences, like poor feeding, vomiting or lethargy. Bigger ones compress the brain, and can be fatal: most non-fatal bleeds result in long-term disability. In the British Medical Journal last week, a team from the South West examined 33 cases of subdural haemorrhages that occurred in their area from 1993 to 1995. All were in children under two years of age. "In retrospect," the authors say, "27 cases (82



When a baby cries, be patient and gentle Nicola Kurtz

per cent) were highly suggestive of abuse." An alternate view was expressed in an editorial in a rival medical journal, The Lancet, in August. There it was suggested that recent publicised cases "should not lead to the premature

diagnosis of 'shaken baby syndrome'". Two experts in the field responded to this editorial by saying it was "singularly unhelpful, [and] misrepresented current clinical thinking". Despite these striking differences amongst the experts,

there are some things about which everyone is in agreement. Firstly, shaking children cannot be regarded as a safe thing to do. Do anything with children that cry excessively – turn on some music, take them out in the park or car, cuddle them, put them in their cots and go into another room – but never shake them. "Excessive crying" has been defined as crying for more than three out of 24 hours. One researcher put it more simply: "An infant cries excessively when the parents state it cries a lot."

The combination of a head relatively big for its body, weak neck muscles, and a pliable, mobile brain means that an infant withstands shaking far less well than an adult.

Another thing everyone agrees on is that subdural haemorrhage is not enough on its own to establish a diagnosis of child abuse. Some children with wider than usual subdural spaces can bleed into them after worryingly trivial falls. But a subdural haemorrhage should alert doctors to look for other signs of abuse, namely small fractures in the

growth plates of other bones, fractures elsewhere of different ages, indicating abuse over a period of time, and the strongest sign that shaking or abuse was the true cause of the injury – bleeding into the membrane at the back of the eyeball: retinal haemorrhages.

The combination of subdural with retinal haemorrhages, along with X-ray signs of other injuries, is enough to confirm child abuse in the minds of most paediatricians. According to the BMJ study, which benefited from hindsight, physical abuse was very much under-diagnosed at the time in the group of children they studied. Opportunities to intervene and prevent further abuse were therefore missed.

The finer points of the mechanisms, pathology and nomenclature of Shaken Baby Syndrome will be debated for some time yet. But a vigorous shaking can do as much damage as dropping a child head first on to a concrete floor – something that all parents and those in charge of children should bear in mind, preferably before they end up in court.

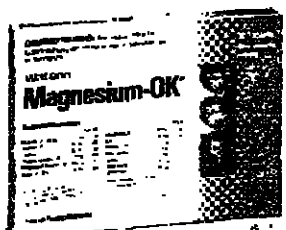


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# A killer of a holiday

The advice for tourists at risk of malaria is simple: keep taking the tablets. By Roger Dobson

Sophie Marmol's month-long stay in tropical Gambia should have been the perfect break. Instead she ended up spending five days in hospital back in London, being treated for malaria after getting the disease when she stopped taking her antimalarial medication.

Malaria is now being brought back by increasing numbers of people returning from long-haul holidays in Africa, South America and South-east Asia, and doctors suspect that, in many cases, people have stopped taking prescribed medication either because of side-effects or the fears of them.

And with more than 250,000 people going on long-haul holidays this Christmas, there are fears that there may be a record number of cases of the disease. In the last year, 10 people in Britain have died of malaria, and over 2,000 cases have been reported, double the number that was treated 20 years ago.

Malaria is a disease caused by a parasite in the red blood cells that is passed on by a bite from an infected mosquito. Classic symptoms are periodic attacks of chills and fever, but it can also produce fatal complications, affecting the liver, kidneys and brain. It is one of the world's biggest health problems, with 500 million cases a year and 2.7 million deaths.

It is endemic in many areas. The first line of defence is to prevent mosquitoes from biting by using repellents and mosquito nets. But for most people, protection will come from using one of four different antimalarial drugs: mefloquine, chloroquine, proguanil or maloprim. Which particular drug is appropri-

ate varies with the area being visited and with the prescribing doctor. Although there is a risk of side effects and the drugs do not give 100 per cent protection, one estimate is that, in the UK, the use of mefloquine alone prevents around 3,000 cases of malaria a year, saving 11 lives and £22m in hospital treatment costs.

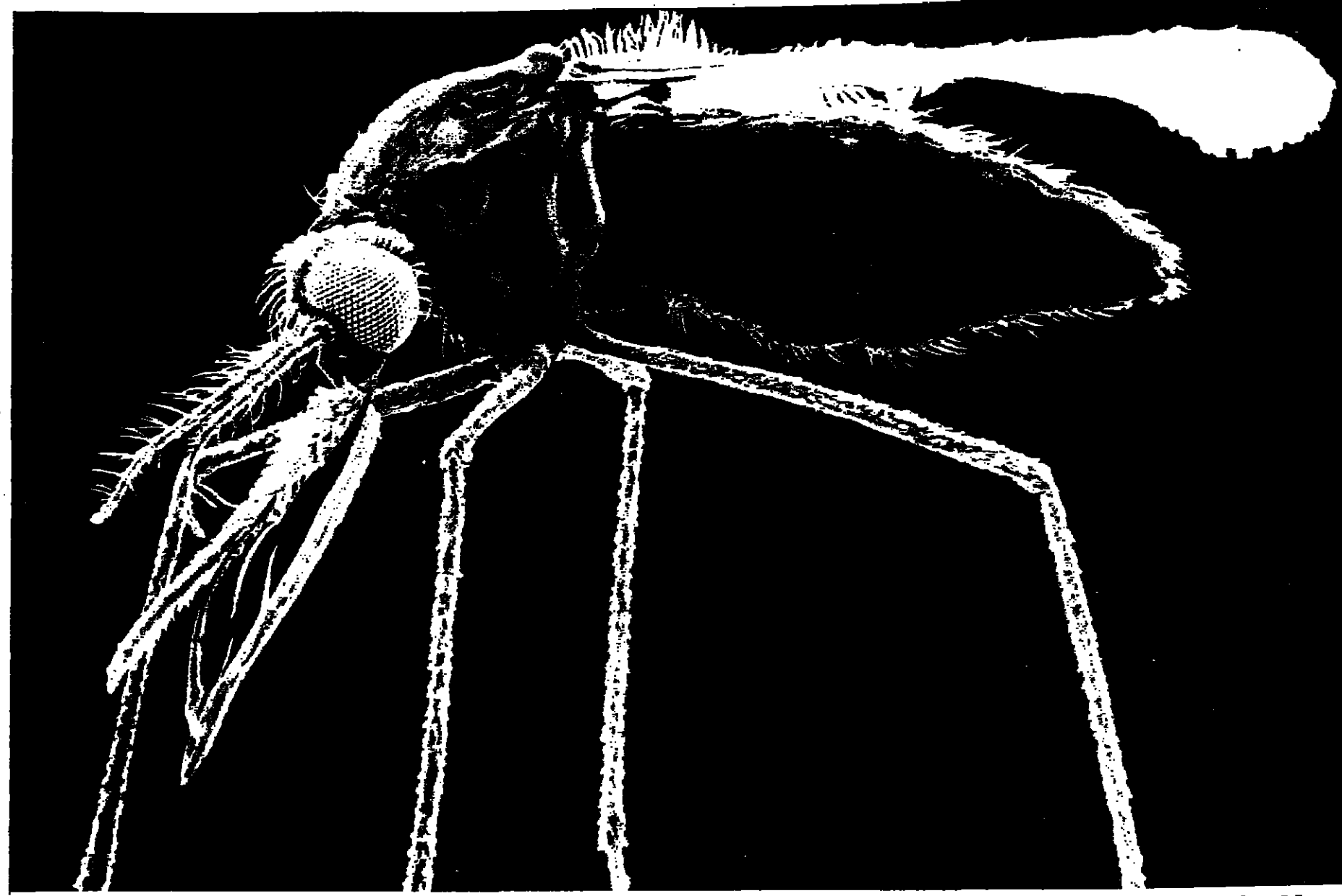
Although in most cases any side effects are relatively minor compared to the potential effects of the disease itself—ranging from nausea and dizziness to panic attacks and mouth ulcers—doctors are increasingly concerned that people are not taking the drugs because of adverse publicity.

"Antimalarial drugs have a bad name which, on the whole, is undeserved, and I believe it has a big impact on the use of them and on the protection people are getting. People need to take professional advice, see their GP or go to a travel clinic," says Dr Ronald Behrens, consultant in travel medicine at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London.

The concern is supported by evidence from an audit of patients at his hospital, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, which found that 80 per cent had either not taken antimalarial drugs or had not taken them properly. In some cases they had been given the wrong medical advice because of confusion over antimalarial medication.

A 50-year-old woman who was admitted to the hospital with liver failure and haemorrhaging had been told by a GP practice nurse that antimalarial drugs had too many side effects. Instead she had opted for a homeopathic solution which failed to protect her.

A 55-year-old man, admitted on



500 million malaria cases a year in the world, all transmitted by mosquitoes, result in 2.7 million deaths

Dr Tony Brain/Science Photo Library

Christmas Eve last year, contracted malaria after his own doctor advised he stop taking the antimalarial drugs while he was in Nigeria. He developed malaria and liver failure. A 37-year-old woman who was treated for fever, jaundice, shock and a reduced level of consciousness had decided not to take her medication when she went to the Sudan.

Sophie Marmol developed malaria while in the Gambia: "I had blood tests there, and then came back and was sick. I had further tests and they found I had malaria. I had treatment with quinine and I was kept in for five days," she says.

"My mistake was that I stopped taking my antimalarial drugs. If I hadn't stopped I wouldn't have got malaria. It's as simple as that. I stopped because I was getting diarrhoea, but after my experience my advice to everyone is to take antimalarial drugs."

According to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, one of the prob-

lems is that reports about side-effects of antimalarial drugs have confused and alarmed people.

"Cases of malaria occurring over the Christmas holidays make it clear that some travellers are not getting balanced, clearly presented

the Australians, the Brits and the Americans all find that they are taking different medication. Then they come to the conclusion that doctors don't know what they are talking about, they stop taking the drug, and then they die.

**A 55-year-old man contracted malaria after his own doctor advised him to stop taking antimalarial drugs while he was in Nigeria**

information about anti-malaria drugs," they say in their BMJ report.

But there is also a gung-ho attitude to taking antimalarial drugs, according to Dr Steve Gillespie, reader in microbiology at the Royal Free Hospital, London.

"Lots of people go off on safari, they all meet up in the bar and

"People must be aware that malaria can kill. I would never dream of not taking antimalarial drugs," he says.

Apart from side-effects, another complication for doctors trying to get the message across is that antimalarial drugs are not 100 per cent effective, although mefloquine

does give 90 per cent protection in some areas, particularly sub-Saharan Africa.

Andy Ramsay, 37, caught malaria in Tanzania, despite taking antimalarial drugs: "I was taking my medication but sometimes it does break through. You get a headache and flu-like symptoms. I was given quinine, which was not very pleasant. Although I did get malaria, people must take their anti-malaria drugs. There are side-effects, but people dying from side-effects are a lot less rare than people dying of malaria," he says.

A further complication is that travellers can get confused.

"Each country has a different malaria requirement, so it gets very complicated. Malaria areas are most of sub-Saharan Africa and many parts of South America. South-east Asia is very variable, from none in most of Thailand to a lot in Burma and rural Cambodia," says Dr Behrens.

"People need to be properly educated and it's not just about taking tablets, but starts with bite avoidance. Everybody should get full professional advice on all related issues of malaria avoidance."

Dr Anthony Bryceson, consultant physician at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, says that anyone who returns from holidays in malaria areas this Christmas and has flu-like symptoms should see their doctor.

"Death is usually due to people not thinking about it because flu-like symptoms are common at this time of year," he says.

The safest holiday destinations this Christmas are the coldest. But there are dangers even here. While almost all malaria is caught overseas, the increase in long-haul travel has led to cases in Europe of "baggage malaria", where mosquitoes have survived in airlines long enough to bite and infect victims who just happen to be passing through the airport.

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### Legal Notices

### Legal Notices

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### RAILWAYS ACT 1993 NATIONAL RAIL ENQUIRY SCHEME

During this year the franchised train operators have failed to ensure that calls to the National Rail Enquiry Scheme (the 0345 484950 number) are consistently answered to the standard required by their licence. On 30 October 1998 the Regulator published a notice stating that he proposed to make an order, using his powers under section 55 of the Railways Act 1993 against the franchised train operating companies to ensure that the performance standard is met. The notice invited representations and after considering those representations and taking into account the steps that have been agreed and are being taken to improve performance, the Regulator has decided to proceed with enforcement action by making the following order. The order requires the franchised train operators to ensure that 90% of calls made or up to 4.6 million calls in a 4 week period to the National Rail Enquiry Scheme are answered and to pay a penalty based on the percentage below 90% which are not answered.

### RAILWAYS ACT 1993 Section 55 - Enforcement Order National Rail Enquiry Scheme

Under section 55 of the Act I make the following order:

- You, [franchised train operator], shall ensure that the calls made to the TEB telephone numbers used by the ATOC National Rail Enquiry Scheme ("NRES"), which is the arrangement for the operation of a telephone enquiry bureau for the purpose of condition 7.1(b) of your passenger licence, are answered in accordance with the Performance Standard.
- For the purposes of determining whether you have complied with this order:
  - the percentage of calls answered shall be the percentage of the calls made to the TEB telephone numbers in a period which are answered;
  - the number of calls made to the TEB telephone numbers shall be the number recorded by BT as having been made to those telephone numbers;
  - without prejudice to the obligation in paragraph 1, the answering of 90% of calls made to the TEB telephone numbers or answering 4.6 million calls, whichever is the least, shall be deemed to be compliance with the order in respect of that period;
  - a call shall be deemed not to have been answered:
    - unless the caller receives a response to his or her enquiry; or
    - if the call is put on hold; and
  - you shall not have failed to comply with this order if the failure is a result of a Force Majeure Event.
- Should you fail to comply with this order in respect of the period commencing 15 November 1998, or any subsequent period, you shall pay to me in respect of each failure a monetary penalty, within one month of demand, equal to an amount:
  - where the number of calls made to the NRES number is equal to or greater than 5.1 million:
    - where the number of calls answered is greater than or equal to 4.34 million but less than 4.6 million, of £500,000; and
    - where the number of calls answered is less than 4.34 million, of £500,000; or

- where the number of calls made to the NRES number is less than 5.1 million:
  - where the number of calls answered is greater than or equal to 85% of calls made but less than 90% of calls made of £500,000; and
  - where the number of calls answered is less than 85% of calls made, of an additional £500,000

- multiplied by your Annual Percentage which is current for the Financial Year in which you have failed to comply with this order.
- This order shall come into effect on 4 December 1998.
- Expressions used in this order have the same meaning as given to those expressions in the NRES agreement.

Chris Bolt  
Rail Regulator

Franchised train operators to whom the order relates:  
Anglia Railways Train Services Ltd  
Cardiff Railway Company Ltd  
Central Trains Limited  
The Chiltern Railway Company Limited  
Connex South Central Ltd  
Connex South Eastern Ltd  
Garech Express Limited  
Great Eastern Railway Limited  
Great North Eastern Railway Limited  
Great Western Railway Company Limited  
Island Line Ltd  
LTS Rail Limited  
Merseyrail Electricity Limited  
Midland Main Line Limited  
Regional Railways North East Limited  
North London Railway Limited  
North Western Railway Company Limited  
ScotRail Railways Limited  
South Wales & West Railway Limited  
South West Trains Limited  
Thameslink Rail Limited  
Thames Trains Limited  
Cross Country Trains Limited  
West Anglia Great Northern Railway Limited

No. 06612 of 1998  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
COMPANIES COURT  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF MURRAY VCT 2 PLC  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 18 November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the above-named Company's reduction of its share premium account.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on 16 December 1998.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 06613 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPANIES COURT

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF MURRAY VCT 3 PLC

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

The Insolvency Rules 1986

Rule 4.106(1)

ICONFIELD LIMITED

in Members Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that Ian Francis, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Francis Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London WC2E 9EP, was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 1 December 1998 in its members voluntary winding up.

All creditors who have not already done so are required to prove their debts in writing to me Ian Francis at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London WC2E 9EP before 15 January 1999 and, if so required by notice in writing, to come in and prove their debts in person at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be deemed to have accepted the benefit of any distribution made before such date as shall be specified in such notice.

Dated 1 December 1998

I FRANCIS Liquidator

This notice is purely formal as all creditors have been or will be paid in full.

ADVANCED CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY LIMITED

Registered Number: 3073756

Notice of Business: Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning

Equipment Manufacture

Trade Classification: 7415

STANDHILL LIMITED

Registered Number: 2881470

Notice of Business: Central Heating Equipment Manufacture

Trade Classification: 7448

FINRAD LIMITED

Registered Number: 796619

Notice of Business: Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning

Trade Classification: 3663

Date of Registration of Administrative Receivers: 21 November 1998

Name of person appointing the Receiver: The Receiver of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on 16 December 1998.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 06616 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPANIES COURT

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF CTS TRAVEL (UK) LIMITED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 23rd November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the above-named Company's reduction of its share premium account.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on 16 December 1998.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

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Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 06617 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPANIES COURT

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF CTS TRAVEL (UK) LIMITED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 06611 of 1998  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
COMPANIES COURT  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF MURRAY VCT 1 PLC  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 16 November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the above-named Company's cancellation of its share premium account.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on 16 December 1998.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 06623 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPANIES COURT

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF HOOPER LIMITED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court (Chancery Division) dated Wednesday 25th day of November 1998 confirming the reduction of the capital of the Company by the cancellation of 5,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each and the cancellation of its Share Premium Account was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 2nd December 1998.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH

Ref: 482/98/193/23CORP/10/12/1

Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 06624 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPANIES COURT

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF LASER INTEGRATED PROTOTYPES LIMITED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 16 November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the above-named Company's cancellation of its share premium account.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on 16 December 1998.

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A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1998

S J Berwin & Co

222 Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8RH



# MEDIA

## Finding the right circles to mix in

With new staff, new programmes, and a new philosophy, Michael Jackson is redefining the goals of Channel 4. But what are they? By Paul McCann

At the beginning of next year the circles will go from Channel 4. The largely unloved hoops that make up the current on-screen logo will be replaced with a new image, that is currently being designed by the channel's presentation department. The new logo will be timely and symbolic. After 20 months in the job Channel 4 is now chief executive Michael Jackson's baby. The programmes on the screen now are the first programmes commissioned by Jackson, and the people from the Michael Grade era are largely gone. Stories about the channel are of a different order too, since the days of the "pornographer-in-chief".

The latest headlines came at the end of last week, when Channel 4 secured the worldwide rights to a Monica Lewinsky interview. The channel sees the interview as the logical extension of its acclaimed series on the Clintons' marriage, but in fact every channel in the world has been covering the Clinton infidelity, and it is possible to see the deal as the channel flexing its financial muscles.

Similarly, Channel 4 denied that money was all that was behind its snatching of Test Match cricket from under the nose of the BBC. At the time, Michael Jackson said that his £103m joint bid with Sky was "only" three or four million pounds more than the BBC offered for the cricket. Instead, a "stunning" presentation to the cricket authorities, and a "fresh innovative approach" are deemed to have won the day. Yet there is no denying that the old ITV levy is sloshing around Channel 4 waiting to be spent. The scrapping of the levy was worth around £30m to the channel this year and will be worth another £90m next year. So, from this money, Channel 4 News is getting a new studio, an extra episode per week and an extra £2m a year.

Drama too has benefited, with an extra £2m, taking its budget to £30m and giving the channel its strongest winter season for some years. The season will include a drama called *Psychos*, set in a Glasgow asylum, and a gay soap called *As Queer as Folk*. These are not just there to keep the *Daily Mail* happy, but part of a search for "returning" drama series, like BBC's *This Life*, which the channel has never before managed.

On top of Lewinsky, the cricket and the new programmes, there is also Film Four, the channel's first venture into pay tele-

vision, and a marker of future expansion. All this activity seems to point to a channel with the confidence to act like the sizeable broadcaster it is. Its advertising sales have always been a phenomenal success, and Channel 4 is the wealthiest broadcaster per viewer in Britain. But because of its "alternative" ethos, and because of its fear of privatisation, it has liked to keep quiet about its wealth and size.

However confidence was required after the late Michael Grade period. Much loved as he was, as an old-style television trooper, Grade's last year in charge was severely criticised by the Independent Television Commission. It's 1997 annual report accused the channel of "losing its innovative edge", producing "no landmark programmes or 'high peaks' of minority interest programmes".

Instead, it relied so heavily on imported programmes that the Government and ITC forced it to accept a toughened up "alternative" remit in the form of a new licence before it could have the ITV levy back.

Jackson has dismantled the Grade Channel 4 to an extent that only sinks in when looked at all at once. Since arriving he has appointed a new head of drama, a new head of film production, and a new head of entertainment. There is also a new senior editor for documentaries, a new commissioning editor for education and leisure, and new commissioning editors for children's programmes, night-time programmes, and for sport. He also created the posts of director of strategy and head of pay television. In 20 months more senior jobs have changed at Channel 4 than they did in eight years under Grade.

But what is the overall strategy that links Monica with Test cricket, and Film Four with money for returning drama series? Given its senior staff, you would think Channel 4 well able to provide plenty of strategic beef. "The legacy John Birt leaves to British television is much wider than the BBC," says a former senior ex-

ecutive at both the BBC and Channel 4. "You have all these expert people, like Michael Jackson, Steve Anderson [Granada head of factual] and Grant Mansfield [ITV's head of documentary] who have learned the importance of strategic thinking from Birt."

"It can be criticised as management-speak, but people like Jackson now understand about audience-focused programming. It's what allowed the BBC to survive the growth of cable and satellite, while ITV slid downhill."

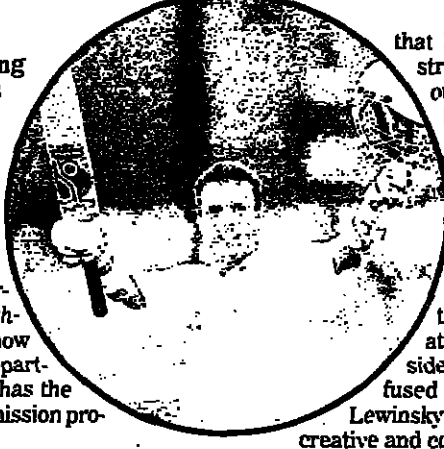
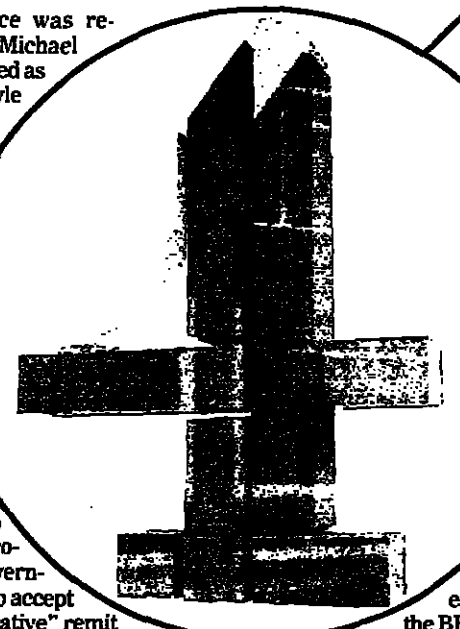
Under Jackson, Channel 4 actually has its first head of strategy, David Brook. Brook is the former *Guardian* and Channel 5 marketing head, who lives and breathes the idea of getting strategic ideas to flow through everything that his organisation touches. At Channel 5, the catchphrase was "modern and mainstream". At Channel 4 the current buzz phrase is "Ahead of the mainstream". Which seems to mean that what Channel 4 does now, others do in three years time. Admittedly, that has always been true - look at how the wacky

gameshow has proliferated since *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* - but now the strategy department actually has the power to commission programmes. "I think, in the past, there was a sense that Channel 4's positioning was defined negatively," says Brook. "It was about being different to what others were doing. That isn't enough in a multi-channel environment, so we now have a positive positioning that is about creativity, innovation and diversity."

"What links the cricket and Lewinsky is that we have this ability to be surprising. That can mean new programming ideas, or it can mean a new execution of existing genres. Our coverage of the cricket will bring a more youthful and multi-cultural edge to the game."

Brook maintains that the channel is now audience-led, but that doesn't mean programming by focus group. "It just means

Michael Jackson (above) is changing the logo (left), has acquired Test Match cricket (right), and Monica Lewinsky (far right)



that knowing that one of our strengths is films and that our audience like films, we become the first terrestrial broadcaster to launch a premium pay-TV film channel.

"Since Michael arrived, he has reconciled the two schizophrenic parts of the channel. In the past there was a creative side and a commercial side to things. Now he has fused them, and the cricket, Lewinsky and the film channel are creative and commercial ideas."

Some are not sure what this actually amounts to: "There is an element of the repackaging department being repackaged," says one insider. "What you have is a lot of new people in place saying 'right, we've got to do this', then all the old farts from the Grade years saying 'actually, we've always done that'."

But some believe it is more simplistic than is made out: "Some of the old farts complain the place is being run less by the taste of an individual and more by the strategy department," says the insider. "There was some fear that he would veto programming that didn't fit the strategy. In fact, the tastes of the boss matters rather a lot, and Michael Jackson was hired because he's got good taste."



### THE WORD ON THE STREET

ONLY THE cynically-minded would surmise that Max Hastings' by-line is appearing more regularly in his *Evening Standard* because he is worried about his job. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the Hastings name has appeared 12 times in the three months since the death of Lord Rothermere and the ascension of Paul Dacre to Emperor of all Kensington, or whatever his title is. By comparison, Mr Hastings swapped his shotgun for his pen only three times in the previous three months, and five times in the three months before that. Pure coincidence, no doubt. Insiders insist he will see out his five-year contract until 2000.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, Carlton television was not keen to hear from *The Guardian* as it prepared to publish its report into *The Connection* documentary last week - the documentary *The Guardian* exposed as a fake. David Cameron, Carlton's head of corporate affairs, refused to take or return phone calls from *The Guardian*'s media correspondent four days in a row. Eventually, he seems to have inadvertently picked up his own phone. After *The Guardian* reporter introduced herself, she was confronted with the amazing sound of someone who sounded a lot like David Cameron maintaining that he was called "John Smith", and just happened to be walking past the phone.

THE TRADITION of investigative journalism at *The Observer* took a bit of a bashing last week when the team known as *The Gangsters* - Michael Gillard, Lucy Johnson, David Conn and Jonathan Calvert - jumped ship together to join *The Express*. They were tempted by Lord Hollick's money, or were feeling unloved by *The Observer*, depending on who you believe. That they were not among the 18 people who lost their jobs at *The Observer* a few weeks ago, would seem to rule out the former. Mr Gillard was last at *The Express* 21 years ago, when he was sacked for being brave enough to investigate one of the then proprietor's friends. We must presume Lord Hollick and all his friends know precisely what they are getting.

## Never mind sales, where have the readers gone?

ANALYSIS  
PAUL MCCANN

"THERE ARE lies, damned lies and a newspaper's analysis of its competitors' sales figures," *The Guardian*'s marketing director said in a letter to *The Independent* last month. Now it seems readership figures can also make interesting reading. Newspaper readership figures rarely change quickly, so they are written about much less than sales or circulation figures. But this month is different.

Figures from the National Readership Survey last week showed that every newspaper, with the exception of the *Daily Mail*, lost readers over the last six months compared with the same six months in 1997.

Leading the pack was *The Guardian*, which lost a whopping 22 per cent of its readership, or 300,000 readers, taking its total number of readers to just over 1m.

Most papers, both broadsheet and tabloid, have lost sales of between 5 and 16 per cent compared with May to October last year.

Readership figures judge the total number of readers per copy of a title and often get forgotten by commentators because they tend to lag behind sales figures. When sales of a newspaper increase it is often the people who used to share someone else's copy who are the new buyers. When they buy their own copy, the average number of

readers per copy will drop as sales increase, and it can take months of sales growth for the total number of readers to grow.

In the same way, when a newspaper's sales are falling it can take time for the sales fall to be reflected in the number of people actually reading a paper; they may have given up buying a title but continue to borrow someone else's.

*The Independent* and the *Financial Times*, the only two titles to increase sales in last month's ABC figures, have also had falls in their readership, illustrating the time-lag factor. The *Financial Times* would argue that readership figures are less relevant to it because half its sales are overseas and that is the half that is growing. The NRS cannot detect overseas readers.

While sales figures are important to newspapers because they determine the amount of cover price revenue a newspaper brings in, the readership figures are important because they can determine the amount of advertising revenue it attracts. Media-buying agencies are divided about the importance of readership figures. Many of those

buying space in a newspaper use the overall readership of a title to give an indication of what coverage - the number of people who will actually see an ad - the paper will give to their campaign. If readership is down this can force down the price a newspaper can charge for its pages of advertising.

And because they are hard negotiators, media buyers will use whatever data is most beneficial to them as a negotiating tool. If sales are falling they will try to use that as their trading currency. If readership is falling faster, it makes more sense to try to bash a newspaper's sales team with that data.

Other buyers are not so reliant on readership data because of the time-lag factor. The latest figures may also have been affected by a change in the way the NRS gathers its research, with individual sections now included in the questionnaire - although this should affect all newspapers equally.

"The NRS is most often used to supply you with the kind of audience supplied by a newspaper," says David Fletcher, a director of the media buyer CIA Medianetwork. "The ABC figures give a more immediate measure of the recent strength of a title and the NRS can be used to give an idea of the cost efficiency of using it."

## The camera hardly ever lies

Fly-on-the-wall documentary makers have been accused of faking it. But viewers can still have faith in what they see on the screen, says Channel 4's David Lloyd

TO SOME observers, 1998 has been the year of the great television fraud, the year when viewers finally discovered that the documentary makers they had trusted for years had been faking it for the camera, and deceiving their audience.

From jobbing building workers to learner drivers, the real people shown doing real things were actually 'reconstructing' events for the camera - or even making them up. Not only did the camera lie, it lied an awful lot of the time.

The worst example of this has been *The Connection*, the ITV documentary slammed in last week's *Independent* report from Carlton Television, which found that many of its revelations about the Columbian drugs trade were made up.

So can viewers believe what they see any more? As far as current affairs programmes and serious documentaries are concerned, the answer is an unqualified yes.

My experience in over 12 years of commissioning literally hundreds of programme makers is that they are people who set out to tell the truth. Most journalists - whether working in print, for a large broadcast news organisation like the BBC or ITN, or as independent producers - want to find things out, then tell their audience what they have discovered. In television they also



A scene from 'The Connection': a drugs story short on facts

have to satisfy the exacting requirements of the Independent Television Commission Programme Code.

I have never known a programme maker try to make a film in which he or she did not honestly believe.

So what to say to those who assert that *The Connection* is just the tip of the iceberg, that there is a whole industry of people over-pitch-

ing their ideas in order to get commissioned and then having to make things up in order to deliver the programme they first promised?

Firstly, there is little evidence of such cases. Programmes which have 'faked it' represent a tiny fraction of the serious factual output of British television. Even the allegations that *Inside Castro's Cuba*,

the second film by Marc de Beaufort, producer of *The Connection*, involved fakery were found by the Carlton report to be without foundation.

Secondly, the rules laid out in the ITC Programme Code and the procedures used by commissioning staff, certainly at Channel 4, are thorough and rigorous enough to detect any deliberate falsity.

As for over-pitching, it has always been with us. In my years as a programme editor at the BBC, I recall journalists talking up the importance of their story in a bid to get it on screen. When you sat down with them you realised maybe 25 per cent was hype. But by then you were talking about what was really important in their project.

Over-pitching may get some commissioners' door opened, but it will not get a proposal made once it has been subjected to proper scrutiny. Perhaps the biggest irony of *The Connection* affair is that the person apparently to blame for most of the fakery in that documentary was the inexperienced researcher Adriana Quintana - and her alleged reason for doing this was "to help her hoped-for career in television".

Well, it didn't. And I don't believe in the long run that it ever would.

David Lloyd is head of news and current affairs at Channel 4



# The Spectator: crisis, what crisis?

Amid rumours that staff are rebelling and his star is falling, Frank Johnson, editor of the right's favourite weekly, talks to Darius Sanai

Frank Johnson, the editor of *The Spectator*, tweedy and academic under his expanse of grey hair, sits behind a vast desk piled high with papers and books.

He looks at you rather as a history teacher would if you were a pupil who had never really bothered to learn the difference between Waterloo and Peterloo.

Sitting in his editor's study - a dusty, dark room in a Georgian house in Bloomsbury, London, which could never be called an office - he can't help giving a history lesson. Today it is on his favourite subject: the Conservative Party.

I ask meekly about his personal philosophy of Tory populism and he is delighted to explain the parallels between the dilemma of the Tories now and the party in the 19th century after the Corn Laws were repealed.

Frank Johnson has been at the helm of the ideological weekly of the right for just over three years. Despite gently rising circulation (now at 57,925) and the recent development that the magazine is actually making a profit, whispers against the incumbent editor and accusations that the magazine has lost its way are increasing in some quarters.

Sales soared under Mr Johnson's two eminent predecessors, Charles Moore and Dominic Lawson - now editors of *The Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph* respectively - and detractors say they are now peaking. There is no coherent *Spectator* ideology, say others.

"It needs originality of ideas and debate," says a respected contributor. "You feel it's caught between

two stools. It's neither defining an ideological debate, but nor is it opening itself out to be a more general interest magazine."

There has even been talk of a strike at *The Spectator* among production staff disgruntled with Mr Johnson's habit of delaying until the very last minute what to put in the magazine. "He insists on all the different possibilities for a page being laid out and waits until they're right up against it and people are

doesn't seem like a man who takes kindly to criticism - in fact, he seems to take it personally, a sign of someone who harbours a fundamental insecurity."

When I remind him that the liberal press had some fun at his expense after he predicted a Tory victory at the last election, he harrumphs. "Did they, humm."

"He's chippy about being an autodidact surrounded by Oxbridge types," says someone who knows Mr

From his own right-wing perspective, Mr Johnson may think *The Spectator* has broadened its appeal, but the apolitical reader flicking through may think otherwise: right-wing heavies such as Bruce Anderson, Paul Johnson, Stephen Glover and Taki appear in every issue.

Whatever their politics, the terrible trio of Johnson, Glover and Taki have given *The Spectator* its best sport this season. The spat began when *The Spectator* writers challenged the veracity of *The Guardian's* investigation into the activities of the two former Tory ministers, Neil Hamilton and Jonathan Aitken. "I believe Neil Hamilton never took those brown envelopes stuffed with cash, though I don't have any evidence," says Mr Johnson.

*The Guardian* recently devoted two pages to cataloguing the magazine's obsession with it - perhaps indicating that *The Guardian* may be equally obsessed with *The Spectator*.

Alan Rusbridger, *The Guardian's* editor, has sent Mr Johnson two letters asking what sort of publication he thinks he's editing. "I've never heard of a national newspaper editor doing something like that," he ponders. "I think Alan Rusbridger just isn't used to anyone disagreeing with him." Perhaps, though, Mr Rusbridger just resents *The Spectator's* columnists casting aspersions on his journalists without any evidence. "They're free to write what they want. I think it's all very amusing," Mr Johnson says.

Like any good Tory boss, Mr Johnson dismisses the talk of a strike among his staff. "It just isn't going to happen," he says. "I am very



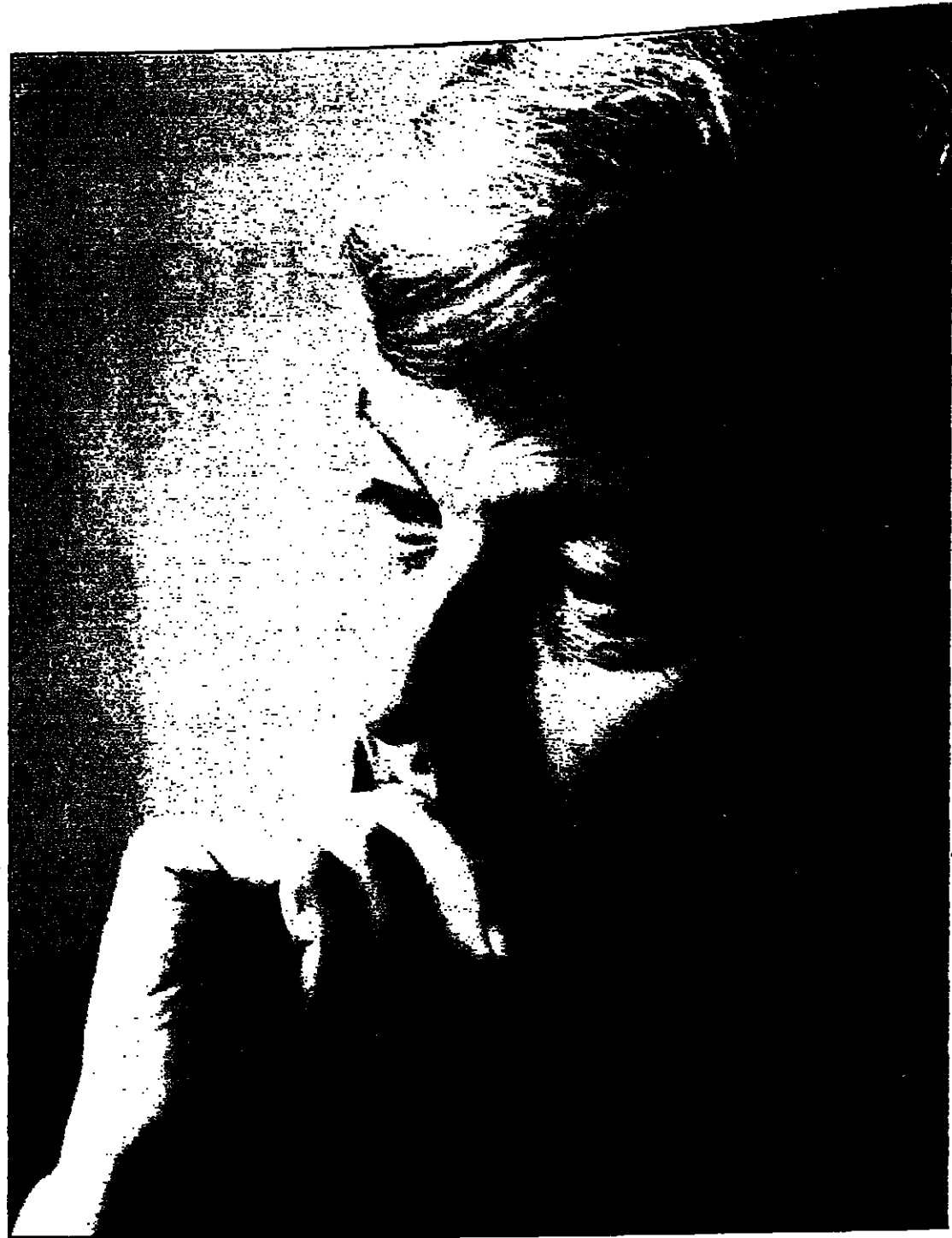
getting to the end of their tether." Think of industrial action by members of the Reform Club and you come close to imagining a strike at *The Spectator*.

When I repeat the editorial criticisms to Mr Johnson, he seems taken aback. "I think I have opened it up to quite a diverse body of views, particularly since the general election."

Though not given to showing off - he's reluctant even to list the things he likes about his magazine - he

Johnson well. "Even though he knows more than most of them, the chippiness is still obvious."

Mr Johnson, who was educated at Shoreditch Secondary School, where he dropped out before doing his A-levels, says he has now created the magazine he wants, with views from across the spectrum; to balance the rightwingers there are regular contributions by Sir Simon, a New Labourite, and a weekly column by Matthew Parris, a Tory of the liberal tendency.



Frank Johnson: 'I'm sure if Conrad Black wasn't happy, he'd tell me'

Kalpesh Lathigra

late in deciding what to put in on Tuesday night, because I have to make sure that it's still relevant when people buy it two and a half days later."

And of the ever-present rumours that the magazine's owner, Conrad Black, is about to sack him and appoint someone else as editor, he says quite simply: "I'm sure if Conrad Black wasn't happy with the magazine he would tell me."

The magazine's publisher, Kimberley Fortier, says Mr Johnson is a "very commercially aware editor, much more tuned in than lots of editors of glossies". This week the venerable magazine sees a redesign, bringing more colour and a clearer layout aimed, Mr Johnson says, at "addressing that perennial question, bringing younger readers in without losing the older ones".

Has Mr Johnson no fear that

*The Spectator* is in danger of becoming an anachronism? "I think it is essential reading because we're better informed about New Labour than any other publication," he responds.

Mr Johnson is so enthusiastically dedicated to his baby that you can't help but hope he is right. But within the broader context of a rapidly modernising media and society, you have to wonder.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

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To advertise in this section please call the Media Team on 0171 293 2332.

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This is a senior post within a tour operator company based in London working alongside the Director in marketing and strategic development of company in CIS countries and Europe. The candidate must have a proven track-record in marketing to these regions. The candidate will be educated to degree level, have fluent (written and spoken) English and Russian. Knowledge of other European languages is preferred. First-hand knowledge of educational systems of UK and CIS countries is essential. The candidate must have excellent communication skills, good organisational skills and the ability to work to tight deadlines.

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e-mail your CV to: grant.whelan@esslimited.com

Harlequin House, 7 High St,

Teddington, Middlesex

TW11 8EE

### TECHNICAL AUTHOR

This position is key to the production and management of all online and paper documentation. Our client is a software house focused on developing innovative messaging and business intelligence software for worldwide corporate markets. They have developed a packaged tool that sits alongside any OLTP system looking for business exceptions, and are pioneering the concept of automated messaging with a high quality product, supported by a young, dynamic, creative and experienced team - both technically and commercially.

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Harlequin House, 7 High St,

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TW11 8EE

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NEW FILMS

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

Director: George Miller  
Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromwell, EG Daily  
The follow-up to 1995's *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of wails. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go for a bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.  
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Director: Pail O'Connor  
Starring: Meryl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Burke  
Less a dance, more of a tragedy, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static, stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.  
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Director: Frank Capra  
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore  
Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his job-like existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and at the day's end this is the making of the film: turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.  
West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG)

Director: Alain Resnais  
Starring: Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azema  
...him or loathe him, *Last Year at Marienbad* auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's *Smoking/No Smoking* comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue. "Inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

RUSH HOUR (15)

Director: Brett Ratner  
Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson  
Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (*Money Talks* Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalinised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.  
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benton  
Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman  
Twilight reunites Newman with his *Nobody's Fool* collaborator Benton for a zimmer-framed film noir which has the former's ageing gunshoe moving in with movie-star buddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely.  
West End: Plaza

YEAR OF THE HORSE (15)

Director: Jim Jarmusch  
Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse  
Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential, swinging between bracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips back into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking.  
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)

Monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

The students at writer-director Dan Rosen's American college are trying to butcher each other, seduced into temptation by an obscure quotation that awards straight A-grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as nasty as the *Screen* films, this delivers a respectable quota of shocks. West End: Metro, Virgin Trocadero

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female struggling to gain purchase in a male world. Kapur largely neglects the chance for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE) (18)

The *Exorcist* is a creature conditioned by rumour and hearsay, its legend swelling in the 25 years since its release. But William Friedkin's horror is still terrifying. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation fills at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
West End: Curzon Soho

IF ONLY (15)

Mix *Twelve Monkeys* with *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and you'd get Maria Ripoll's dreadful Anglo-Spanish comedy about a dumped boyfriend who is transported back in time by mysterious Spanish dustmen. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Jeroen Krabbé's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Rastafarian family in 1970s Holland. Fiftal as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers and newcomer Laura Fraser. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

ROUNDERS (15)

John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of *The Last Seduction* but it's certainly an improvement on the eminently forgettable *Unforgettable*. West End: Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

SLIMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15)

Tamara Jenkins's fictionalised account of her own teenage years in the outskirts of Beverly Hills lacks the wit of *The Ice Storm* and *Boogie Nights*. But her impeccable sense of comic timing is enhanced by a superb central performer in Alan Arkin. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Ritzy Cinema

VICTORY (15)

A Conrad adaptation which takes us to a sleazy hotel in the South Seas, and provides some safe, literary acting from Simon Callow and friends. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)

Jude Law plays a vampire who wines and dines his victims. An attempt to give an adult twist to a genre that's principally an adolescent enthusiasm. West End: ABC Pantons Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.



Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen (above) as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

My Name Is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgård), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

The Fountainhead (PG; Curzon Soho)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Invention of Love

Theatre Royal, Haymarket  
A witty, heartbreaking fantasia by Tom Stoppard (below) on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend. To 24 Apr

Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre  
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent (all two of them). Very funny and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Angela Carter's Cinderella

Lyric Hammersmith  
A feast of inspired silliness and visual magic from Neil Barlett and Improbable Theatre. To 9 Jan

Arabian Nights

Young Vic  
A ravishingly costumed magic carpet ride in the Young Vic's incomparable tradition of Christmas shows. To 23 Jan



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Mirror Image National Gallery

A magpie's delight, Jonathan Miller (below) curates a show of mirrors and shiny surfaces in painting, with virtuoso reflections from Van Eyck's *Arnolfini* portrait to Helen Chadwick's *Fantasies*. To 13 Dec

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery

Autobiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley

Abbott Hall, Kendal  
A retrospective of Bridget Riley's work from her early Sixties Op Art, moving from rippling monochromes to colour, stripes and diagonals. To 31 Jan



Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery  
The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites such as *King Cophetua* and *The Beggar Maid*. To 17 Jan

Chris Offili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

Turner Prize winner Offili is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870 9020418) @ Baker Street  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870 9020404) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm  
Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm  
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Hamam: The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
Year of the Horse 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870 9020402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
Stunts of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm  
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870 9020403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly  
Circus Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm  
The Governors 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm  
La Vie Revee Des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870 9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Road Antz 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.35pm, 4pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm  
My Name Is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm  
The Negotiator 3.40pm, 6.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) @ Barbican  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.5pm  
Out of Sight 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CHelsea CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Chelsea  
On Connait La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common/Babe: Pig In The City  
1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 4.30pm, 9.15pm  
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm  
Victory 2pm, The Wisdom of Crocodiles 7pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park  
Dancing At Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 5.15pm, 7.45pm, 9.15pm  
Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm  
It's A Wonderful Life 12.5pm, 6.30pm  
The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle  
Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm  
Out of Sight 8.25pm, 9.30pm  
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square/Babe: Pig In The City  
11am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm  
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate  
It's A Wonderful Life 1.40pm, Out of Sight 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
The Negotiator 8.40pm, Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm  
Rush Hour 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

PLAZA

(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.40pm  
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Sawing Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Russian Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square  
On Connait La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm  
The Knowledge of Healing 4.05pm, Year of the Horse 1.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Corner/Kingsbridge  
Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm  
La Vie Revee Des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate  
The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

Odeon CAMDEN TOWN

(08705 050007) @ Camden Town  
Antz 12.55pm, Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm  
The Negotiator 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm  
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm  
Ronin 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.25pm  
Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

Odeon HAYMARKET

(08705 050007) @ Piccadilly  
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

Odeon KENSINGTON

(08705 050007) @ High Street  
Kensington Antz 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm  
Blade 6.50pm, 9.35pm  
Elizabeth 6.55pm, Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm  
Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm  
Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm  
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm

Odeon LEICESTER SQUARE

(08705 050007) @ Leicester Square  
Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

Odeon MARBLE ARCH

(08705 050007) @ Marble Arch  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm  
The Negotiator 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm  
Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm  
Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm

Odeon MEZZANINE

(08705 050007) @ Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm  
If Only 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.50pm

Odeon WEST END

(08705 050007) @ Leicester Square  
Les Miserables 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm  
Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm  
Snake Eyes 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

Odeon SWISS COTTAGE

(08705 050007) @ Swiss Cottage  
Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm  
Elizabeth 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm  
Mean Guns 9pm  
The Negotiator 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm  
Out of Sight 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm  
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm

Odeon TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(08705 050007) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm  
Elizabeth 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm  
Mean Guns 9pm  
The Negotiator 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm  
Out of Sight 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm  
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm

Odeon VICTORIA

(08705 050007) @ Leicester Square  
Les Miserables 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm  
Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm  
Snake Eyes 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-494 4153) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Across the Sea of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) 12.45pm, 5.05pm  
Everest 3pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm  
T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm

PLAZA

(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.40pm  
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Sawing Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Russian Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square  
On Connait La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm  
The Knowledge of Healing 4.05pm, Year of the Horse 1.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

RIO CINEMA

(0171-254 6677) BR: Dalsdon  
Kingsland The 6th London Turkish Film Festival Phone for details  
A 6.30pm  
Hamam: The Turkish Bath 9pm  
Love Under Siege 2pm  
Mixed Pizza 4.15pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2229) BR: Brixton  
Antz 7.35pm, Buffalo 66 2pm, 7pm  
City of Lost Children 1.35pm, It's A Wonderful Life 1.35pm, 4.50pm  
My Name Is Joe 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm  
Short: The Man Who Held His Breath  
Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm  
Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Soul Food 9.30pm  
The Truman Show 4.30pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

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# PETER CONCHIE



## TELEVISION REVIEW

Pharoos's own weapon of choice was to mix the intellects with the national. A deductive explanation of the US's cynical degrading tactics to avoid a messy African conflict, he tries to have it both ways.

Paulsgal Krume reported for van interred with findings of *Peromyscus* from Kwinda in Europe's coming down river.

The advertisement in the pages of 1984, predicting a worthy visceral dismantling "What food? Meat! No Nothing," left night's burrowing Panopticon (BBC) should be seen as their (BPC). While Keanee endeavored, the right-realist Steve Parkhouse convinced the forthcoming presidency of the United Nations Security Council and how it, stood by for one million people were murdered.

The paragraph's thrust against was those institutions bureaucracy and the recidivism of the halfhearted notion of evil, which is so easy to define and seek retribution for where it inhabits a single figure such as a Hitler, Ann or Pinochet.

Panopticon left me feeling culpable and, in a sense, I wrote in 1985 I think I think about Rwanda, except in the Virginia

Koehn has been received by some of sentimentalised the reporter's brief - of not being quite "John Singpost" enough. This was a trap which Bradshaw lay and huge avoided. It was unnecessary to ask a Belgian soldier what he would say to the mother of a child who had been murdered after his troops abandoned her to the Huns, and perhaps I reflected the frustration of their being

One of the more serious I didn't lobby my MP or campaign for interventionalism. I was even talked about it, but I didn't. Unfortunately, the U.S. Security Council took much the same approach and I could have hoped. "There was no political will," as contributors pitifully remarked and there was no British voice on the programme let in being ashamed and guilty.

no other person to blame.

At one school, 2,000 Tulsas were protected by 100 Belgians as Hutus carried the camp. When the UN ordered the troops withdrawn, refugees asked their former protectors to shoot them, preferring that to death by machine. When the Belgians left, they had to fire their guns into the air to clear a path through the crowd. In a grim irony, this was the signal for the Hutus to begin the killing.

Investigating contributors — the desk officer at the US mission to the United Nations and a professor of political science in Wisconsin — wondered what would have happened if he had been involved, and the UN involvement and the official Pennington, which only described it as genocide after the fact had happened. The end result is he would probably have been sacked.

# INFORMATION

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## BBCI

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (7331), **7.00 News** (7) (43563), **8.00 Killy** (5) (5555224), **9.40 Style Challenge** (5) (131576), **10.00 City Hospital** (5) (7) (187953), **10.55 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (482224), **11.00 Good Living** (5) (483891), **11.25 Carri Cook, Woni Cook** (5) (7) (404908), **11.55 Carri Cook, Woni Cook** (5) (7) (404908), **12.00 Pass the Buck** (5) (6443738), **12.25 Going for a Scud** (5) (6422205), **12.50 The Weather Show** (5) (7) (7239727), **1.00 News: Weather** (7) (468801), **1.30 Regional News and Weather** (4594401), **1.40 Neighbours** (5) (7) (6750008), **2.05 Invision** (7) (653747), **2.55 Bullerston Dogs' Home** (5) (7) (4694534).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (5) (1) (712411).
- 6.00 News: Weather** (7) (427).
- 6.30 Regional News.** And weather (7) (779).
- 7.00 Holiday.** Jerry Spoke, the Aorangi employen who became the star of his television *Alford*, visits St. Peterburg, Fla., will dance in Malibu and a suit, celebrating holiday on the Greek island of Skelhos (7213).
- 7.30 Eastenders.** Jerry - never a pretty sight at the best of times - is consumed with guilt. And Bianca makes a startling announcement (5) (7) (683).
- 8.00 Mysteries with Carol Vorderman.** The size of Vorderman's back balance may no longer be a mystery, although the disappearance of those children in Australia in 1988 still is. All that and stigma too (5) (7) (3663).
- 8.30 Only Fools and Horses.** The Trotters go aloofing (4) (5) (7) (2798).
- 8.00 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (2392).
- 8.30 CRUISE Highlander.** (Russell Mulcahy 1988 US). Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery do battle across the centuries. See *Film of the Day*, below (7) (687868).
- 11.25 FILM The Dead Can't Lie** (Lloyd Fonville, 1988 US). Above-average intelligent supernatural gumshoe hybrid. Crime goes Tommy Lee Jones is being with wealthy playboy Colin Bruce, who claims that has been harassed by the dead wife (Virginia Madsen), rather than making the excuses and leaving. Jones takes on the case, taking on the ludicrously spectral Madsen en route (62448).
- 1.00 Weird Science** (5) (1) (567098), to 125am.

# BBC2

- 7.00 Children's 205** Teletubbies (S) (56484595) **7.30** Toys Treasure Hunt (R) (5386179). **7.45** Blue Peter (S) (7) (319069). **8.20** Robinson Soccer (R) (S) (7) (5352799). **8.40** Oakie Doke (R) (S) (671979) **9.15** Tales of the Book Fairies (R) (6233332). **9.40** The Little Polar Bear (R) (S) (4767953). **9.45** The P4i Slivers Show (R) (723022) **9.50** The Great Francophiles of the Twentieth Century (R) (55048). **10.00** Teletubbies (S) (S) (91316).
- 10.30 FILM The Big Cheese.** (Joseph W Newman 1959 US). Roger Loeb is playing a clown who is to be the high point of the otherwise big top jawn. With Victor Mature, Ted Bardsley and Rhonda Fleming (7) (5224759).
- 12.10 Working Lunch** (710639). **12.40** Oakie Doke (S) (7230639). **12.50** The Arts and Crafts Hour (977595).
- 1.20 Uefa Cup Live! Live Arts and Rangore** (S) (21914427).
- 3.30 Westminster (819).** **4.00** Chicago That (R) (531079U). **4.25** Henry, Henry, Cark (S) (7) (635836). **4.55** I'm on (S) (724519). **5.30** Henry's last day (S) (7) (749).
- 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (R)** (S) (423973).
- 6.20 Heartbreak High.** Heart-Attitig, as they say, Sydney schoolmate drama. Kart makes a career decision. Jet makes an impression on Drake (S) (7) (600384).
- 7.00 The O Zone.** Julie Thirskstone books (with) the scenes of *Top of the Pops* with popstar Billie (527279).
- 7.25 Urgent Action.** *Ally-Myra* short (S) (7) (98254).
- 7.50 From the Edge.** The magazine for the disabled looked at wheelchair access to football grounds and profiles the deaf pacifist/artist Evelyn Gleanne (S) (7) (205).
- 8.00 University Challenge.** London's City University takes on Leicester University for a place in the second round (S) (7) (209).
- 8.30 Delia's How to Cook.** Delia Smith explains the joys and rules of pasta, before introducing up some of her favourite pasta sauces (S) (7) (60404).
- 9.00 Back to the Floor.** The chief constable of Sussex (by the name of Paul Whitehouse, as it happens) swaps his push office for a stint on the beat (S) (7) (6214).
- 9.30 Modern Times Come on England.** Oh, football – how passé. How very last summer. Which is (of course, when Richard Attenborough documentary takes place, fittingly 11-year-old Liverpoolian Thomas and his friends as they follow England's progress through last June's World Cup (S) (7) (344779).
- 10.20 Wrappere.** Hot drinks and their branded past (677972).
- 10.30 Newslight.** With Jeremy Paxman (7) (542779).
- 11.00 Seinfeld (S)** (7) (93231).
- 11.35 The Larry Sanders Show.** Larry decides to write his memories (S) (731446).
- 12.00 Despatch Box** (43333). **12.30** BBC Learning Zone: Open Science: Heliology (21625). **1.00** A Future with Aids (61626). **1.30** Hitchhike, Chickens and Worms (7) (72936). **2.00** Missionsaries: The Dark Continent/The Micasu/The Big Question (6163). **4.00** Lingua Italian (2827). **5.00** Career Waves: 13 Wifling and Journalism (525460). to 5:15pm.

## ITV Carlton

- 6.00 GMTV** (1422089).
- 9.25 Trisha** (S) (T) (215-4578). **10.15 This Morning** (T) (6204408). **12.30 Your Show!** (6105-427). **12.30 News:** Weather (T) (90330). **1.00 London Today** (T) (31750). **1.30 Christmas Home in the Country** (7438750). **2.10 Home and Away** (S) (T) (865-82882). **2.40 Dales Supermarket Sweep** (S) (T) (4023446). **3.10 ITN News Headlines** (T) (335682).
- 3.20 Children's ITV:** Wizards (R) (6122555). **3.30 The Singing Kaitie** (S) (6204586). **3.45 Whores, Witches and Werewolves** (R) (S) (65-18624). **3.45 Zzzzz** (S) (567069). **4.15 Jimmy** (T) (65-91424). **4.40 Out of Sight** (S) (T) (035501).
- 5.10 Home and Away** (S) (T) (6009330).
- 5.40 News: Weather** (T) (942822).
- 6.00 News Tonight.** Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (595).
- 6.30 Good Stuff.** Rowland Rivron and Wendy Douglas present their entertainment guide to London and the M25 area (S) (75).
- 7.00 Emmerdale.** Yorkshire folk. Rachel lears for Kathy's health and sanity. Kelly squares up to Thelma, and Scott betrays Will (S) (T) (231).
- 8.00 The Bill.** Another howling pld episode. In 'Heat and Light', the race is on to catch an increasingly ambitious arsonist (T) (3137).
- 8.30 Grangers.** Puppilating franchis of this Georgia builders saga, starring Robson Green and Stephen Tomkinson. A seighrhead enters the fray, as does a local council, which wants to inspect the building's foundations (S) (T) (6601).
- 10.00 News: Weather** (T) (72448).
- 10.30 London Tonight** (T) (656021).
- 10.40 An Ethiopian Journey.** Jonathan Dimbleby returns to Ethiopia to relive his experiences of 20 years ago when his documentary, *The Unknown Frontier*, helped bring the world's attention to the unfolding tragedy in that country (T) (690265).
- 11.40 Champions League Special** (757069). **12.15 The Hunted Flashback** (24850). **12.45 Planet Rock Profiles** (S) (5034026). **1.20 Heat Stories of the Highway Patrol** (S) (7313170).
- 2.05 [E] A Little of What You Fancy** (Robert Webb 1959 UK). Documentary tracing the history of British music hall (65-42083).
- 3.45 Sundratrex** (S) (22303986). To 32dram.

# Channel 4

- 7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (T) (36c20), **5.00** Home Movie (S) (36c4400).
- 9.35 FILM Give My Regards To Broadway**, (Lloyd Bacon 1948 US) Facing starvation, Charles Winiger encourages his friends to look for the steps in this ballet that, whichever way you look at it, is a little bit wrong. Dan Dailey stars (3670458).
- 11.10 Devon Why** (3656446), **11.20** Rhinoceros (3657398), **11.30** Powerhouse (T) (3659), **11.30** Streaming Street (T) (73839), **12.30** Dream of Jeannie (T) (36897), **1.00** Judge Joe Brown (36392), **1.30** The Ocean World of John Sorenman (3759754).
- 1.55 FILM The Star** (Stuart Heisler 1953 US), Bette Davis plays a former Oscar-winning actress messily coming to terms with the fact that her career is over in this occasionally funny but sub-*Striptease* Boulevard portrait of ageing Hollywood (T) (3723530).
- 3.30 Collectors' Lot** (363), **4.00** Filmmaker to One (T) (200), **4.30** Countdown (S) (T) (3640224), **4.55** Ricki Lake (S) (T) (7257179), **5.30** Pet Rescue Roundtable (S) (T) (624).
- 6.00 Harry Hill**, Tonight, it's *ers* a *Coronation Street* flavour, with guest Peter Baldwin and Owen Aspinall - all of which dates this report to early 1997 (T) (337).
- 6.30 King of the Hill**, Hank's expensive new lawn is overrun by ants (S) (S) (T) (717).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News** **Weather** (S) (T) (373856).
- 7.50 Art Trepannamite**, A look at an exhibition by James Turrell inspired by Yorkshire Quaker ceramics (305801).
- 8.00 Brookside**, Mopsy gets big, goes more than he bargained for when he fights Mike's corner with Antares. Little offers Joy a helping hand (S) (T) (3691).
- 8.30 Classic Albums**, New series begins with a look at recent involved in renaissance missions and secret agent landings (S) (T) (6409).
- 9.00 FILM Cutting Edges: The Outsiders**, Meet the intimates of a hotel for the homeless in Leeds. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (T) (62519).
- 10.00 The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star**, 5/6 Continuum Bryan Eales's broad and non-revealing portrait of the pop biz. The band arrives at Big Noise studios to record at the farmhouse of rock legend Derek 'Mort' (T) (368309).
- 10.55 Adult Ricki**, Ricki Lake meets people who are trying to recover 'vibes' of themselves (which which are still held by former partners (36982).
- 11.30 Deepa Street** (759427), **12.05** *ers* (T) (730144), **12.10** Absence Stronger than Presence (2337793), **12.15** Pond Life (361557), **12.30** It Takes Two to Tango (756575), **12.35** There's a Party in My Pool (381018), **12.40** Queen of Terror (115539), **12.45** Dirty Baby Does Fire Island (368362), **12.55** How or Never (551888), **1.05** Pearlman (361444), **1.15** Slightly Tired (2347002), **1.30** Sex Site - the Manual (234495).
- 1.15 Deadline** (3693267), **2.25** Real World (363781), **2.50** HomeLife (2293033), **3.45** Wheel World (3652970), **4.40pm**

## Channel 5

- 6.00 5 News and Sport** (S) (6590156). **7.00 WideWorld** (R) (S) (7) (654243). **7.30 Wilderness** (S) (2840243). **7.35 Winzas House** (R) (S) (6652346). **8.00 Hancock** (S) (7) (7653799). **8.30 Diaperhead** (R) (7) (7932069). **9.00** The Great Garden Game (R) (S) (7) (6386409). **9.25** Russell Grant's Poshcasters (R) (4/2/1809). **9.30** The Open Wintry Show (6607295). **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (7) (4534057). **11.00** Lezard (S) (6638427). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (7) (796808). **12.40** Family Affairs (S) (7) (2507953). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (662040). **1.30** Soaps and the Stars (S) (6651909). **1.40** 100 Per Cent (S) (669446). **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (2523021).
- 3.30 FILM** *Made in Italy* (Alec 1995 US). From the backyards of the mid-1950s, this one stars Glenn Close as a staid secretary whose body is immorally taken over by the spirit of a fun-loving actress, killed in car crash 60 years earlier, who now plans to resume her career. *Chicago House's* Annie Panklin plays Close's perplexed husband (7909408).
- 5.20 The Roseanne Show** (9456010).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** 'The game show with out a host' (S) (7928985).
- 6.30 Family Affairs** Annie feels powerfully attracted to Dave (S) (7) (2783937).
- 7.00 5 News, including First on Five** (S) (7) (701554).
- 7.05 (60105) UEFA Cup Football - Live! Liverpool vs Celtic Vigo** Steve Stiles presents second-round UEFA Cup action from Anfield with special studio guest Mark Wright (kick-off at 7.45pm). *See Match of the Day*, below (S) (4684779).
- 8.50 FILM** *Edge of Deception* (George Milne 1994 US). The heavily sexed-up suspense involving Celtic Vigo to arrive and to liberate it. *See Match of the Day*, below (S) (4684779).
- 9.00** The newly sexed-up suspense involving Celtic Vigo to arrive and to liberate it. *See Match of the Day*, below (S) (4684779).
- 11.45 The Streets of San Francisco** (R) (7) (204514). **12.45** Live and Dangerous (S) (7160793). **3.45** Aspin Football Show (901499). **4.40** Premier Club Book H (7793557). **6.30** 100 Per Cent (7596809). To Sam.
- Television G.U.K. by Graham Gilmart**

## MATCH OF THE DAY

**LIVERPOOL VS CELTA VIGO** (7:55pm) Last Saturday's game against Spurs illustrated the scale of the problem facing Arsenal. The 19th-century club, founded in 1880, is owned by the Glazer family—the legacy of Roy Evans, once a footballing legend at Middlesbrough, who managed the club until 2006. Since then, the club has been run by a consortium of American investors. Some of them, for example, go to matches in front of the Middlesbrough faithful and even going to install the sort of caricature statue that's going to hang at Anfield, the Arsenal. Space Hogs (including Robbie Fowler, right) have a 3:1 deficit to take up a reversal of fortune they have only managed once in Liverpool's history. What odds Celta Vigo going through? 7/1. Should go down to the docks, and take them—lawyer's snarl.



## DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

**CUTTING EDGE: THE OUTSIDERS** (open Ca, right) I'd like to see a graph of the switch-over rate for Dominick Savaris's firm about such security crises in Dashiellville. The ministers of the theory stacks of waves crashing onto the single and the stacks to slash-over-wishes to score and most people will be arguing for *cut-throats* in even the sight of Liverpool. PC trying to defend their greatness. Stick with it, though, and a rather more potent emergence of desperate people fighting against the odds. They all lie in the Available Jobs, which stopped taking to boldnumbers in 1935 in order to accommodate the homeless.



## FILM OF THE DAY

**HIGHLY ABLE** (8:30pm, BBC, 1 night) If you happen to be at home on this afternoon, you'll notice Bae's performance in *Shant's Hesher's* in *The Street* (12:30pm, CB, with a host). Otherwise, there's this bit and kind of a time-travel farce from 1968, which spawned two sequels and a long-running TV series. It's an extremely lean, high point of Christopher Lambert's so far disappointing career. *Grigoriye and Subutyev* seemed to have introduced a new sort of leading man - perhaps Lambert should never have cast this, lady, anyway. It's one of a dwindling band of "immortal" ongoing heroic combat over the ages. Sean Connery co-stars.

**TELEVISION GUIDE BY GILBERT GILBERT**